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Belin: Palestinian state not ruled out

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's ruling Labour Party may revise its platform and include the creation of a Palestinian state, among the possible solutions of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, an Israeli cabinet minister said Friday. Economics Minister Yossi Beilin, one of the architects of the 1993 Israel-PLO autonomy agreement, said he would seek to change Labour's platform at the next party convention in March 1996. General elections are to be held in November 1996. "I will suggest that, like in 1991, when we put an end to the scandalous prohibition (of talking to the PLO)... we also end the denial of a Palestinian state," Mr. Beilin said on Israel Radio. Mr. Rabin until now has been vague about his vision of the final status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, saying only he opposed the creation of a Palestinian state and would not give back all the land Israel seized in the 1967 war. Labour Secretary-General Nissim Zivli said Friday the party might accept a compromise under which a clause rejecting the creation of a Palestinian state is removed from the platform.

Jordan Times

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King calls for new approach to end Iraqis' suffering

HM urges the three main groups of Iraqi society to meet and chart their country's future

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein has reiterated that he has no hidden objectives in Iraq and called for a reconciliation meeting among Iraqi Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds to help determine the future of their beleaguered country.

another problem posed by some of Iraq's neighbours who might seek to take advantage of the chaos in the country.

"Iraq consists of three main elements (Sunnis, Shiites, and Kurds)," the King told Al Sharq Al Awsat. "According to the 1958 constitution they enjoy full rights. I believe that we should seek a meeting of representatives of the three elements within a national reconciliation framework."

"Such a meeting will help draw the main outlines for the country's future and so secure its sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity."

The King said he found no justification for the criticism levelled against Jordan by Egypt and Syria for having given shelter to Hussein Kamel, former Iraqi minister of industry and a son-in-law of President Saddam Hussein, and that Jordan would not have been angered had Lieutenant-General Kamel had gone to any other Arab country for shelter.

The King said he could find no way to lifting the sanctions on Iraq except through Baghdad implementing all the relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions. "These resolutions do not only entail the removal of all weapons of mass destruction. There is a world power with great influence demanding that the Iraqis settle the Kuwaiti prisoners question and give the people in the north and south their rights."

Following is a translation of the King's interview with Al Sharq Al Awsat in a question and answer form: Question: What is Your Majesty's concept about the situation in Iraq?

Answer: The suffering of the Iraqi people is not new. We have always been concerned over the suffering. We have stood by Iraq during the eight-year Gulf war, which came as a surprise to us. We had hoped that Iraq will become a new power in the region, helping the cause of understanding and integration among the Arab states on solid foundations. We were convinced that Iraq will not condone or support the interference by any Arab state in the affairs of another nor the use of an Arab weapon against another Arab country. But we were surprised to see Iraq invading Kuwait. At that I tried to do all I can to solve the problem and to secure an Arab solution to the crisis, but unfortunately the course of events moved in an adverse direction.



(Continued on page 7)

Baghdad sends message it wants to retain strong ties with Jordan

Izzat Ibrahim informs Regent of Iraqi desire not to let defection mar relations

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Iraq has sent a message to Jordan saying Baghdad wants to maintain good relations with Amman despite the recent defection to the Kingdom of a high-ranking Iraqi official, a Jordanian official was quoted as saying on Friday.

relations with Amman," the message reportedly said. "Iraqi leaders realise the importance of King Hussein in the Arab World."

The deputy head of the RCC, which is chaired by President Saddam Hussein, also noted that ties between the two countries were set up by King Hussein and President Saddam, AFP said.

The message follows an Aug. 23 speech by King Hussein in which he criticised the policies of the Iraqi leadership and explained the reasons that prompted him to grant asylum to Gen. Kamel, his brother Saddam Kamel and their wives, both daughters of President Saddam.

State-run Iraqi media, usually quick to respond to criticism of the government, have also been relatively docile in their handling of the Jordanian criticism, in what was seen here by analysts as an Iraqi realisation that Baghdad could not really find fault with Jordan's approach to the issue.

Furthermore, the interdependence on each other by Iraq — which meets Jordan's oil needs and receives part of the cost of oil in food and medicine — and the Kingdom, which also represents the only outlet for Iraq to the outside world, has made it almost impossible for Baghdad to adopt any unilateral action, the analysts noted.

Gen. Kamel meanwhile ridiculed President Saddam's decision to stand for reelection and said the presidential referendum should be open to all candidates.

Gen. Kamel, the architect of Iraq's weapons programme, told AFP that "everyone eligible to be president and to serve Iraq should be able to run in the presidential election."

The uneasiness in Jordanian-Iraqi relations following the Aug. 8 defection to Jordan of Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel, former minister of industry, is "only technical and will pass," Mr. Ibrahim said in the message, according to the official.

"Baghdad wants to maintain its historical and deep

dependence on each other by Iraq — which meets Jordan's oil needs and receives part of the cost of oil in food and medicine — and the Kingdom, which also represents the only outlet for Iraq to the outside world, has made it almost impossible for Baghdad to adopt any unilateral action, the analysts noted.

Gen. Kamel meanwhile ridiculed President Saddam's decision to stand for reelection and said the presidential referendum should be open to all candidates.

Gen. Kamel, the architect of Iraq's weapons programme, told AFP that "everyone eligible to be president and to serve Iraq should be able to run in the presidential election."

He added that the elections should take place under the auspices of the United Nations, the Arab League and the Organisation of Islamic Conference.

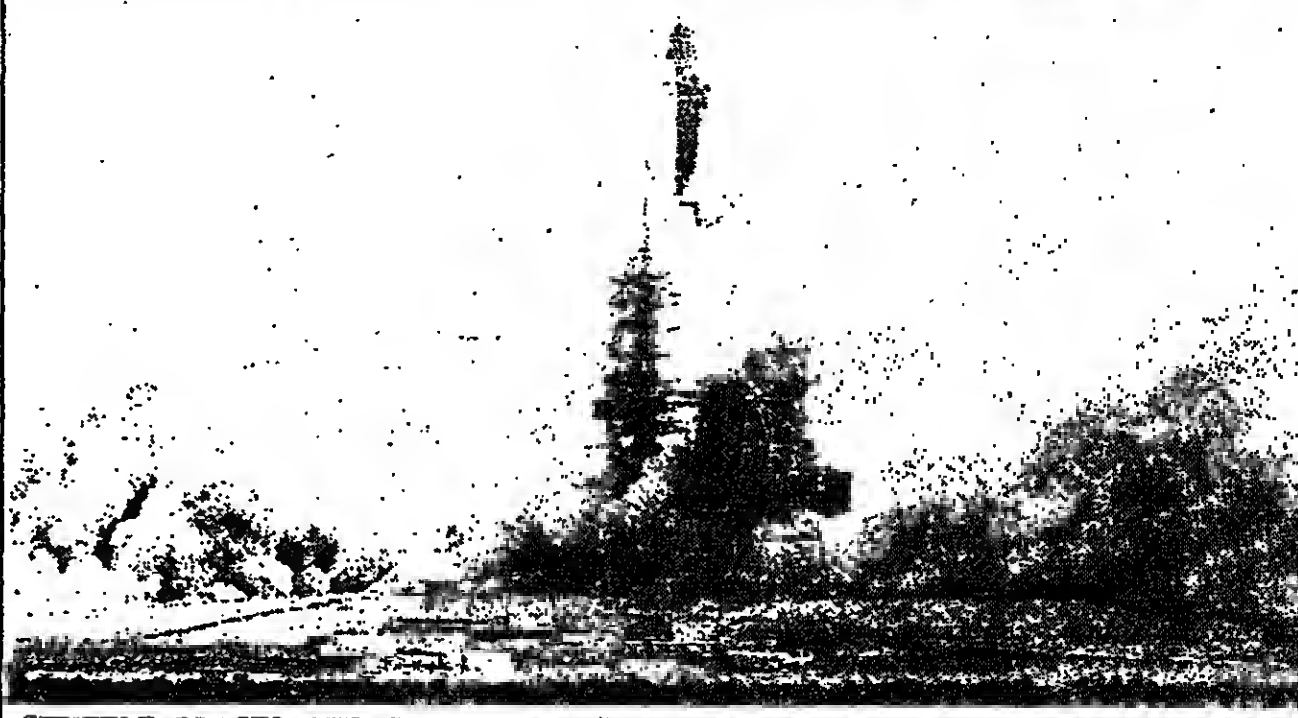
The RCC, which has previously appointed the president, proposed President

(Continued on page 7)

Security Council extends sanctions on Iraq

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The Security Council extended five-year-old trade sanctions against Iraq on Friday, weeks after Baghdad admitted having made rocketed missiles and bombs.

"Iraq has intentionally doled out bit by bit, piece by piece, information that gave only a glimpse of the programme's skeleton," Edward Gnehm, the U.S. deputy ambassador, told the council. Security Council members have said they will not consider easing the sanctions until Iraq fully cooperates with U.N. weapons monitors.



SHUTTLE BLASTS OFF: The space shuttle Endeavour climbs into the sky from the Kennedy Space Centre on Thursday on its way to orbit with a five-man crew on a planned 11-day scientific mission (AFP photo)

Murayama to visit Jordan on Sept. 18

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama has added Jordan to his itinerary and will visit the Kingdom on Sept. 18 for talks with His Majesty King Hussein on bilateral relations and Tokyo's role in supporting the Middle East peace process, Jordanian and Japanese officials said Friday.



Tomiichi Murayama

Mr. Murayama, who will begin the visit in Saudi Arabia on Sept. 12 and will also visit Egypt, and Israel as well as the Gaza Strip, will arrive in Jordan in the afternoon of Sept. 18 and leave for Syria later in the day and fly home from there on the following day, they said.

Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Takayuki Kimura said

Cabinet meets today on judges' resignation

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Cabinet is expected to meet today on the case of 23 judges who resigned last week in protest against poor working conditions, Judicial sources said on Friday.

Speaker Sa'ad Hayel Srouf, 25 lawmakers called for convening a special session to discuss the issue. Describing the issue as "very dangerous" and "highly threatening," the deputies said that the mass resignation should be studied by the Lower House as soon as possible.

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, met with several high ranking judges who decided to opt for retirement as of the Oct. 1 and promised to study their demands, the sources said.

In the daily press, judges and lawyers aired conflicting views about the issue, especially in terms of granting some of the demands of the judges, with some saying that some of their demands are unconstitutional. But they all agreed on the need to improve the status of judges, quoting examples of the respect and privileges that judges enjoy worldwide.

Lawyer Mohammad Subeih said in an open letter to

(Continued on page 7)

Balkan ministers back Bosnia plan

Combined agency dispatches

THREE FORMER Yugoslav republics agreed Friday to create a separate Serb state within Bosnia, diplomats said following a day of U.S.-sponsored talks.

"This way Bosnia stays within its internationally recognised borders, and Bosnian Serbs cannot join their territory with Serbia," Sven Alkalaj, Bosnia's ambassador to Washington, told the Associated Press. "It is a concession to the Serbs but it leads towards peace."

The provision would allow the Serbs to have special links to Serbia and the Bosnian government to maintain and develop its ties to Croatia without jeopardising Bosnia's external borders.

"This territorial proposal is open for adjustment by mutual agreement," said the document. Diplomats said negotiations would continue to agree on the internal borders of the Serb-controlled area.

The agreement also calls for national elections and adoption of "normal international and human-rights standards and obligations," including freedom of movement and resettlement of displaced persons.

Hundreds of thousands of people have been driven from their homes since the Bosnian war started more than three years ago after Serb rebels in 1992 protesting Bosnia's secession from the former Yugoslav federation.

Serbia's approval of Bosnia will not immediately end the war, but quashes the Serb dream of formally creating a greater Serbia including parts of neighbouring Bosnia and Croatia. That goal sparked war in Bosnia in 1991.

In Paris, foreign ministers

"Each will be self-governing with its own constitution," Mr. Holbrooke said, stressing the agreement is only the basis for difficult negotiations to come. "Clearly much remains to be done."

The compromise was a major concession to the Bosnian Serbs. It also met the Muslim-led Bosnian government's demand that Bosnia remain a single country.

"None of this constitutes partition of two countries," Mr. Holbrooke said.

(Continued on page 7)

Israel, PLO fail to end impasse

Jewish terror group claims cold-blooded Halhoul killing

TABA (Agencies) — Israeli and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leaders reported "slight progress" but no agreement Friday on the thorny question of who will control the town of Hebron after Palestinian autonomy is established in the West Bank.

One Israeli negotiator said the negotiations were in a crisis.

Highlighting the complexity of the issue was a report that masked men in Israeli army uniforms shot dead a 25-year-old Palestinian man near Hebron on Friday and a Jewish anti-Arab group claimed it was responsible.

The Israeli army denied the killers were soldiers.

Israel radio said a group called Eyal sent pager messages to several Israeli correspondents saying its people shot dead Salman Zamari in his home in Halhoul near Hebron early on Friday as part of their struggle against the Israel-PLO peace deal.

Palestinians said a group of men in Israeli army uniforms, some wearing gas masks, entered homes of Palestinians in Halhoul on Friday, identifying themselves as soldiers and beating residents.

They entered the Zamari home looking for Salman Zamari, a Palestinian source said. The men tied up his father, then shot Salman dead on his arrival.

Baruch Merzel, leader of the banned extreme right wing Kach group, said Eyal was made up of former Kach members who had claimed responsibility for other attacks against Arabs.

"This is a right wing group whose members were once in Kach. When Kach was barred from running for parliament, some people decided to change their tactics," Mr. Merzel told Reuters.

"This is the group that claimed responsibility for killing three Arabs in (the West Bank village of) Tarkumiya," said Mr. Merzel, who lives in the tiny Jewish enclave in Hebron.

(Continued on page 7)

Families march through Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Denouncing Her Majesty Queen Noor, the honorary President of the Jordanian Diabetes Society (JDS), Princess Basma Bint Ali Friday gave the start signal and took part herself in a march which kicked off from Hussein Youth City and ended at the JDS premises in Dahyat Rashid in the western outskirts of Amman.

The march was aimed at raising awareness about diabetes and highlighting the role played by the society in providing insulin free of

charge to diabetes patients and to raise funds for the purchase of a mobile clinic. Taking part in the march were JDS members and their families, in addition to school and university students.

The society was established in 1991 to promote awareness about diabetes through the publication and dissemination of facts and figures about diabetes, its causes and consequences, as well as prevention and treatment.

RJ sales go up in August

AMMAN (Petra) — Royal Jordanian (RJ) last month collected \$38.6 million in revenues, compared to \$35 million during the same month last year, according to Majdi Sabri, vice president of the airline's Marketing and Sales Department.

Dr. Sabri said total flying hours of RJ aircraft during Aug. 1995 were 4,912, compared with 4,690 in Aug. 1994.

Average daily flying time increased from 10.8 hours in

Aug. 1994 to 11.1 hours in Aug. 1995, he said.

Dr. Sabri said the aircraft seat occupancy rate on most of the routes also increased from 72.9 to 75.9.

RJ has operated 98 additional flights and 38 charter flights to meet the increase in the number of tourists who visited Jordan this summer, Dr. Sabri said, adding that the income collected from on the charter flights totalled \$2.2 million.

ARABSAT meeting opens today with plan to launch new satellites

AMMAN (Petra) — The 75th meeting of the board of directors of the Arab Satellite Organisation, known as ARABSAT, opens in Amman today with the participation of delegates from nine Arab countries including Jordan.

During the six-day meeting the delegates will review the organisation's financial situation, as well as a report by the board chairman on the organisation's perfor-

mance last year and a proposal by Egypt to launch a special satellite for the Egyptian Radio and Television corporation.

The delegates are also expected to review the implementation of the second generation of the ARABSAT project.

The organisation, founded by the Arab League's ministers of posts and communications in 1976, aims at creating a pan-Arab satellite

network to serve Arab countries' telephone and television systems.

Jordan contributes nearly four per cent to the organisation's \$163.5 million capital.

The first generation saw the launching of the first and second satellites in February and June of 1985 respectively while the second generation of satellites were launched in 1992.

Altogether 18 Arab countries are linked to the

ARABSAT but Libya, Palestine and Somalia are still to set up their ground satellite stations.

The organisation is looking forward to launching a series of new satellites by mid-1996.

Countries attending Saturday's meeting are: Jordan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Egypt, Libya and Morocco.

Jordan's illiteracy rate lowers to 13%

AMMAN (J.T.) — The rate of illiteracy among Jordanians above 15 years of age dropped to 13 per cent down from nearly 17 per cent last year, according to Dr. Khaled Nabiti, head of the Ministry of Education's general education department.

Efforts are being made to reduce the rate to eight per cent by the year 2000, he added.

In a statement marking International Literacy Day (ILD) Friday, Dr. Nabiti said that the progressive reduction of illiteracy rates in Jordan has been made possible through the literacy and adult education centres which were set up in 1967.

At present Jordan has 600 centres which offer free basic education to nearly 10,000 adult men and women who missed out on school education in their childhood, according to Dr. Nabiti.

In its drive to wipe out illiteracy, the Ministry of Education followed a dual strategy intended to prevent the increase in the number of illiterates while at the same time to provide basic educa-



Young student concentrates on school examination (file photo)

tion to those who are illiterate, he noted.

In 1952 the Ministry of Education made basic education in the first six years compulsory for all children in the country.

In 1964 the ministry extended the compulsory period to nine years, said Dr. Nabiti.

In accordance with the resolutions and recommendations passed by the 1987

national education conference the ministry raised the basic education period to 10 years covering all children up to the age of 16.

The Ministry of Education has also established adult education and literacy centres in a bid to eradicate illiteracy in the country, said Dr. Nabiti.

Dr. Nabiti quoted a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organi-

sation (UNESCO) report as saying that Jordan was among the first Arab countries to introduce eradication of illiteracy programmes.

On the occasion of International Literacy Day UNESCO Director General Friday issued a statement noting that in developing countries illiterate adults still account for an average 30 per cent of the population.

AN EDUCATION LAND-MARK

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh Thursday presents certificates of appreciation to the first graduates from the Um Qais Sama Rousan Secondary School which was established in 1920 in this northern part of the Kingdom. In addressing a ceremony to mark the school's 75th anniversary Mr. Rawabdeh said this school has graduated many of Jordan's educationalists, noting that it was the only secondary school in the Beni Kananeh district at the time. The school, established and financed from selfless contributions of the citizens of Beni Kananeh has been one of Jordan's education landmarks, he said (Petra photo)



WHAT'S GOING ON

SEMINAR

Seminar (in Arabic) entitled "The Arab Personality and Its Challenges," by Dr. Abdul Majid Khairi at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 7:00 p.

EXHIBITIONS

* Photographs on Jordan entitled "Jordan, One of a Kind" by Paula Williams-Brown and illustrations and water colours by Jordanian artist Ramzi El-Sayyed at The Gallery, Jordan InterContinental

DARAT AL FUNUN

FILM: "Picasso" at 5:00 p.m.

* Works of graphic art by several artists and students at the South Gallery. * Photography of Jordan, "Elements in Harmony" by Hala Hodeib at the Blue House. * Display of painted stone and steel, "Embargo Art" by Iraqi artist Nuha Al Radi at the Garden of the Blue House. * "Early Morning Scribbles" by Lebanese artist Amin Al Basha and Jordanian artist Rajwa Bint Ali and "Late Night Scribbles" by Amin Al Basha and Jordanian artist Ali Bermamet.

Noor Al Hussein Foundation enters new decade

'Setting national standards of excellence through innovative, integrated community development'

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Noor Al-Hussein Foundation is celebrating its 10th anniversary this month.

Established by Royal Decree in 1985, the Noor Al Hussein Foundation has launched many projects and programmes to address different development needs in Jordan through innovative, dynamic and integrated community development models to serve in setting national standards of excellence regarding family and community development, women, children, culture and heritage and education.

In the field of family and community development, the Quality of Life Project aims at improving the living standard of families and individuals living in underprivileged communities across Jordan by training and supporting people to become self-reliant through grassroots community participation in the planning, management and evaluation of social and income-generating development schemes which include home gardens, fruit orchards, goat, cow and poultry raising, fish ponds, broom and basket making, wool knitting and sewing, textile and carpet weaving and bee-keeping.

By 1995, 2,000 families in 12 villages were benefiting directly from this project, which also indirectly serves about 25,000 people living in those villages and their neighbourhoods.

As for women and their role in the development process, the Women-in-Development Project was initiated to accelerate the integration, participation and representation of low-income women in national socio-economic development through the introduction of innovative income-generating schemes based on the concepts of self-employment and home production.

By 1995, more than 868 women and their families were benefiting directly and indirectly from the project and have become active participants in their own devel-

opment, informed decision makers in their homes and communities and trained income-earners in their society.

Within the framework of the Women-in-Development Project, a community development centre at Aqaba and five other pilot projects were initiated.

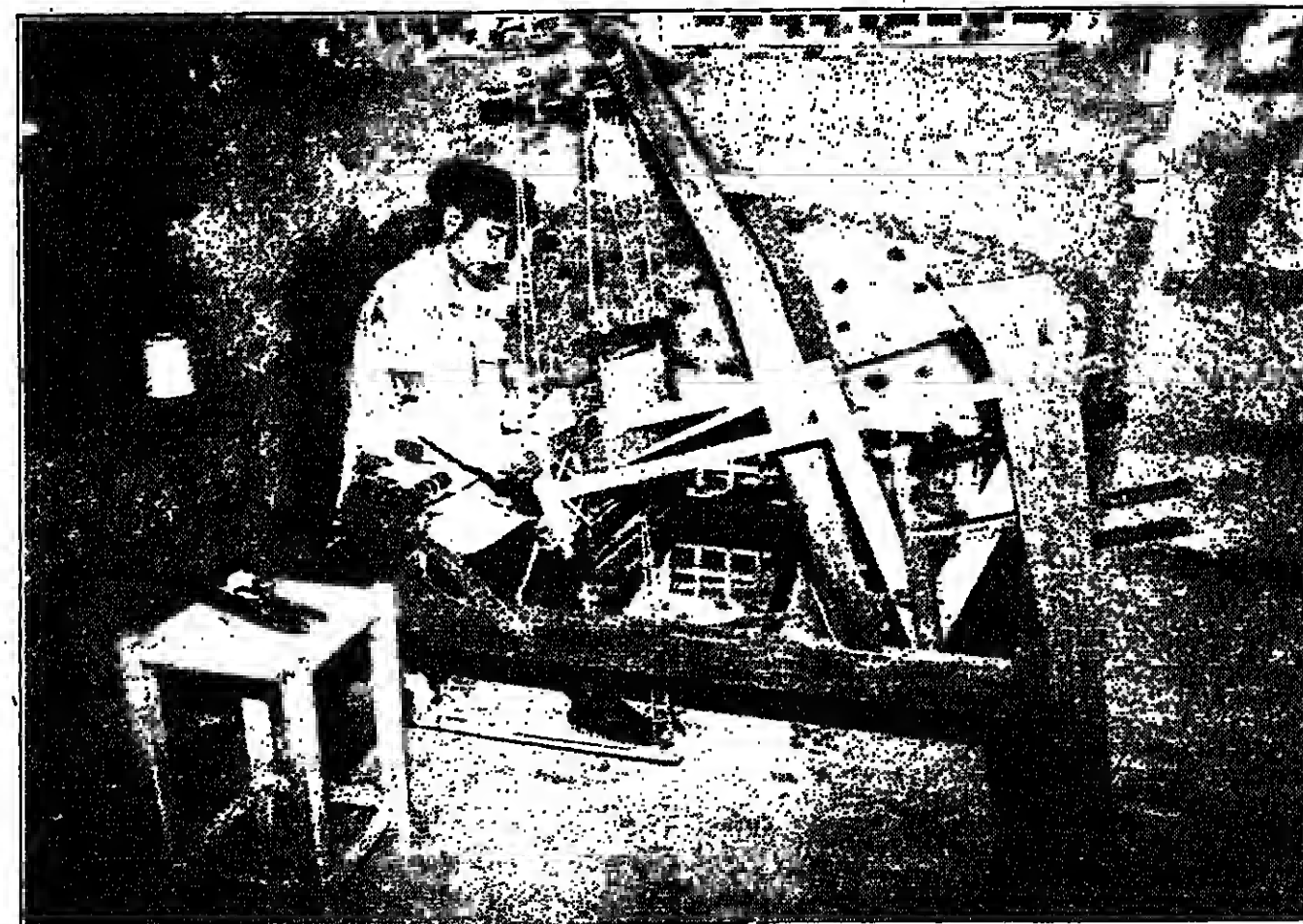
These include: bee-keeping and honey production at Karak Governorate, the Medicinal Herbs Project in Irbid Governorate which, in less than two years, has produced 10 per cent of what Jordan used to import in sage and thyme and has expanded to benefit farmers and cooperatives throughout Jordan, the Leather Stitching and Light Shoe Production Workshop in Zarqa which benefits 44 women and their families through sales to the local market, the Garment Production Unit in Mafraq Governorate, and the Rabbit Farm in Balqa Governorate.

As for children's welfare, the Institute for Child Health and Development in the city of Sweileh includes a maternal and child health clinic, a child development unit, a research and documentation unit and a mobile unit of health specialists.

The institute aims at developing new and adequate methods in preventive health care for pregnant mothers and pre-school children as well as raising the primary maternal and child health-care standards in Jordan by improving growth monitoring, diagnosis and management practices.

By 1995, 3,745 children and 1,175 mothers had benefited from the institute's maternal and child health clinic services, 1,243 children had utilised its child development unit.

The NHF also sponsors several cultural programmes for children such as the Children's Heritage and Science Museum which receives about 200 children daily, the Mobile Life and Science Museum which reached about 40,000 children throughout the Kingdom, the SOS Children's



A young woman practises her new weaving talents at a workshop established by the Noor Al Hussein Wadi Seer Community Development Project (photo by Robena)

Villages in Tareq (a suburb of Amman) and in Aqaba, benefiting 166 children and 17 male and female teenagers, children's clubs and playgrounds in Karak, Zarqa, Aqaba, the Ashrafieh region and in the 12 villages where the Quality of Life Project is being implemented, the Arab Children's Congress in which more than 1,000 children have participated so far, the Day of the Arab Child and International Day of the Child, the Queen Noor Award for Children's Literature and finally the National Children's Hospital which is to be established in the near future.

In the field of culture and heritage, the National Handicrafts Development Project which was established to revive traditional crafts and

preserve a unique aspect of Jordan's national heritage, encourages crafts men and women to produce innovative, high quality handicrafts such as ceramics, embroidery, woven rugs and wool products at competitive prices for domestic and international markets.

This project includes the Jordan Design and Trade Centre (Liwani) which aims at raising the standards of Jordanian handicrafts production, providing marketing opportunities, creating new jobs and increasing women's involvement in production and decision-making by offering assistance in product development, technical and management training and marketing.

By 1995, the centre had provided training and services to more than 30 handi-

craft-related organisations and benefited about 3,000 Jordanian crafts people and their families.

Its products include not only items for decoration but for home use also such as woolen rugs, embroidered home furnishings, ceramics, glassware, bakery, fashionable clothing, wrought iron furniture, personal accessories and Islamic calligraphy items, all designed and produced by Jordanians and individual artists supported by the centre.

The work of the centre has been well recognised and has won several awards at international exhibitions.

The centre has appointed sales representatives in several countries.

In its endeavours to raise the standards of its handi-

crafts products in Jordan, it has initiated a Silver Jewellery Project in Wadi Musa to produce traditional silver items. For this purpose, a workshop and a retail outlet will be set up.

Another offshoot of the National Handicrafts Development Project is the Salt Handicrafts Training Centre which is dedicated to preparing a new generation of distinguished crafts men and women by offering a free three-year training programme for students, ad hoc courses for the public and crafts people and an in-service programme for trainers.

In 1995, the number of trainees reached approximately 200.

Also in the field of culture and heritage, the National Music Conservatory, which has a student body of 350 students and 55 full-time

and part-time teachers as well as the first and only children's orchestra in Jordan, was established to develop the talents of musicians and promote music appreciation in Jordan.

Finally, the NHF is involved in the famous Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts which annually attracts thousands of people from all over the world to the ancient sites in Jerash to enjoy a variety of entertainment productions from the Arab World and many other countries.

In the field of education, The Royal Endowment for Culture and Education, the Theatre-in-Education Programme, which is intended to enhance the development of the educational process in Jordan through the creative medium of drama and to promote theatre arts combines classroom and stage techniques with the natural acting instinct of the young to promote self-awareness, confidence, learning and creative expression.

It also offers drama-in-education training courses for elementary school teachers and community college students, organises drama workshops for elementary and preparatory school students, produces specially devised short plays as well as musicals and plays for children.

Here also, the Centre for Early Childhood and the Jubilee School, which is dedicated to the development of the intellect and leadership potentials of gifted and outstanding Jordanian students with special emphasis on those from underprivileged areas, are devoted to educational excellence.

The Jubilee School is an independent four-year, co-educational secondary school which helps set national standards of excellence in education by providing its students with highly trained staff, modern laboratories, workshops and classrooms, career counselling and community-service opportunities.

At the start of the 1994/95

academic year, student enrolment in the school reached 197.

Looking towards the future, three new projects are being implemented:

1- The Wadi Seer Community Development Project which is intended to accelerate comprehensive socio-economic development in five villages in the Wadi Seer area of Amman by implementing a market-oriented business approach that encourages individual initiatives.

It seeks to revive traditional Jordanian crafts to meet market demand in the country's growing tourism sector.

This project will also provide health services and sanitation facilities and will help generate long-term employment, particularly for poor women.

It includes several schemes such as renovation of irrigation canals, cow raising, environment awareness, nursery, medical herbs, building renovation, weaving workshop, ceramic workshop and paper making, primary health and nutrition training and food processing and preservation.

2- The Tricot Knitwear Project which aims at training underprivileged women to become self-reliant income-earners in their communities.

It has a production unit which manufactures samples and exclusive items, develops designs and selects the raw materials according to prevailing fashions and market needs, and attends to product marketing.

It offers local women free courses in design, knitting, sewing and financial management and administration.

3- Population Programmes for the Grassroots which helps redress Jordan's present annual population growth rate by fostering awareness about population issues at the grassroots level and advocating family planning through small group sessions, campaigns at the village level and producing guides, posters and video films.

Lobov: Hunt is on for Dudayev

GROZNY, Russia (AP) — Eight months after Dzhokhar Dudayev fled his bombed presidential palace, Russian troops have launched an active search for the elusive Chechen leader, a top Russian official said.

The statement by Oleg Lobov to Russian journalists reflects Kremlin concerns about getting a firmer grip on the Chechen conflict in the run-up to Russian parliamentary and presidential elections.

Mr. Lobov, who was granted broad powers last month as Mr. Yeltsin's personal representative in Chechnya, also said in comments reported by the Interfax News Agency that a criminal case against Mr. Dudayev has been opened.

There has been little evidence of any all-out hunt for Mr. Dudayev in the past in the tiny Caucasus Mountains region, despite Russian statements that they wanted

to capture him.

Driven out of his headquarters in the Chechen capital Grozny last January, Mr. Dudayev has set up his military command in outlying areas and occasionally speaks out harshly in interviews or clandestine broadcasts.

On the eve of the fourth anniversary of Chechnya's self-proclaimed independence, which fell Wednesday, Mr. Dudayev threatened to bring his "fire and sword" onto Russian soil.

He told Associated Press Television that Chechnya is occupied territory and accused the Russians of failing to live up to their promise to withdraw troops, as called for in a July 30 military pact.

Mr. Lobov acknowledged in Grozny that the situation in Chechnya remains "complicated," blaming it on the failure of Chechen rebel fighters to voluntarily disarm as called for under

the accord. But Interfax quoted him as saying, "The situation is not hopeless."

The hawkish Lobov, who also is secretary of Mr. Yeltsin's Security Council, flatly ruled out the possibility of Mr. Dudayev's participation in local elections in Chechnya.

"Persons against whom criminal proceedings have been started have no right to contest elections," Mr. Lobov told journalists in Grozny, according to Interfax.

"If his position and views change or he is rehabilitated just as others are, as a rehabilitation is envisaged in principle, then the issue can be looked at differently," Mr. Lobov said. "A lot depends on Dudayev himself, and not only on him but on his entourage too."

The Russian Armed Forces reported Thursday that Chechen separatists destroyed 307 Russian tanks in the Chechnya fighting.

Colonel-General Alexander Galkin, head of tank forces at the Ministry of Defence, told ITAR-TASS news agency that a total of 1,200 armoured vehicles took part in the campaign "to disarm illegal armed groups". It was not clear how many of those were tanks.

Gen. Galkin said losses could have been significantly reduced if troops had provided cover for the tanks, many of which were picked off by shoulder-held anti-tank weapons in fighting for control of Grozny.

Gen. Galkin said a new generation of Russian tanks to be introduced by 1998 would be equipped with extra defence and safety mechanisms with ammunition and fuel stored separately from the crew.

He said three-quarters of Russia's tanks needed to be replaced, but plans were hampered by lack of funds.

Yeltsin: Fragmented democrats face tough extremist challenge

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin predicted a tough parliamentary election campaign Friday, saying the democrats were too fragmented and would have to join forces to defeat the challenge from extremists.

"The attempts to unite the democratic wing have not yet succeeded," Mr. Yeltsin told a news conference in the Kremlin, adding that parties were not grouping around the reformist ex-Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar, who leads the Russia's Democratic Choice faction.

"There will be a tense (election) battle," he predicted.

"I'm concerned about the fragmentation of parties. Now we have 250 small parties and I'm worried about that, even though only 50 of them can really take part in the campaign."

He said many party leaders "want to see only their names heading the list of candidates."

Mr. Yeltsin said that according to the latest opinion polls, each party would get between five and eight per cent in the Dec. 17 elections to the 450-seat State Duma, or lower house of parliament.

"It will be hard for one group to get ahead. Probably an analysis of this situation will push some parties to unite, to secure a majority bloc in the future Duma."

The Kremlin hoped to clip the extremists' wings in the

summer by launching two pro-Yeltsin coalitions, the centre-right Our Home Is Russia and a centre-left bloc led by Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin.

But Mr. Rybkin failed to gather influential groups in the new bloc and his repeated attempts to woo the conservative Agrarian Party, of which he was formerly a leading member, were also unsuccessful.

The Communists and Agrarians joined forces Wednesday to challenge Mr. Chernomyrdin's centrist bloc.

"As a voter my personal sympathies are with those movements and blocs in favour of democratisation, speeding up reform and social protection for people. Legal action will be taken against parties allowing anti-constitutional slogans," Mr. Yeltsin said.

"We cannot allow extremists to get into power, and we will take every step to prevent that."

In the last parliamentary elections in December 1993 the Liberal Democratic Party of ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the Communists and Agrarians gained 40 per cent of the seats in the Duma.

"I'm very worried that criminal elements, people connected to the criminal world or funded by it, will try to get into the Duma, and I'll watch out to prevent that happening," Mr. Yeltsin said.

The Russian leader said

the result of the parliamentary polls "cannot influence my decision to stand as a candidate in the presidential elections."

"I cannot announce before the parliamentary elections whether I will stand for election or not, or twice that would raise a stir. But next year I will definitely make an announcement."

Mr. Yeltsin said that as president he was "the guarantor of fair elections for everybody, peaceful elections without clashes. These elections must be conducted honestly," he added.

Mr. Yeltsin predicted "a period full of turbulent events" up to mid-1996. "Russia is now going through a difficult period, with the elections to the State Duma set for December, local elections before March 1996 and finally presidential elections in mid-1996," he said.

On Sunday, Mr. Chernomyrdin said the election campaign had "got off to a difficult start."

He proposed collaboration with other centrist parties, suggesting the Women of Russia party, which has 22 deputies in the Duma, as a likely partner both before and after the December poll.

Half the 450 seats are decided on a first-past-the-post constituency contest, while the other half are drawn on a proportional basis from the parties' national and regional lists.

Mrs. Clinton pushes for democracy in Mongolia

ULAN BATOR (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton rode out into the vast Mongolian countryside, visiting with nomads in their canvas tents to show support for this fledgling democracy wedged between Russia and China.

Wrapped in a shawl and wearing black suede cowboy boots, the first lady stepped back in time as she walked across rolling green hills to meet with nomads whose ancestors have roamed the land for hundreds, perhaps thousands of years.

Usually, the only signs of life are three small, circular

tents and dozens of horses, yaks and goats. On Thursday, the tranquil scene was dramatically transformed by an invasion of 20 cars and trucks and a horde of cameramen and reporters.

Mrs. Clinton was greeted by a young couple who offered a bowl brimming with fermented mare's milk, a traditional nomadic drink. After a sip, Mrs. Clinton managed a smile.

Most Westerners hate the taste, sometimes described as a cross between butter-milk and beer. "It tastes like what we call yogurt," Mrs. Clinton said diplomatically. She also sampled boiled

milk curds. "I was so impressed by the beauty of the land," Mrs. Clinton told the family, surrounded in their tent — known as a ger — by in-laws and eight pink-cheeked children.

Members of Mrs. Clinton's entourage got two pages of courtesy tips about how to act in a ger. If you have to go to the bathroom, for example, you tell the host you're going to take a look at the horses.

The first lady arrived here from an International Women's Conference in China for an overnight stay in Ulan Bator.

Quebec separatists present referendum question

TORONTO (AP) — Setting the stage for a crucial vote on Canada's future, Quebec separatists Thursday presented the question that voters will be asked to answer when they decide whether to opt for independence.

The question was introduced at the provincial legislature by the separatist Parti Quebecois, which governs the province.

It alludes to future economic and political links with Canada. But federalists retorted that there could be no assurances on such links if the referendum — expected on Oct. 30 — endorses sovereignty.

"It's a divorce notice with an offer of remarriage," said Conservative Party leader Jean Charest.

The 43-word question is somewhat more succinct than a rambling 121-word version that was defeated by a 60-40 margin in a 1980 referendum in the mostly French-speaking province.

The new question reads: "Do you agree that Quebec should become sovereign, after having made a formal offer to Canada for a new economic and political partnership, within the scope of the bill respecting the future of Quebec and of the agreement signed on June 12, 1995?"

The June date refers to an agreement signed by Quebec's three main sovereignty parties to ensure that the referendum, while focusing on independence, would also stress continued association with Canada.

After the Parti Quebecois, Bloc Quebecois and Action Democratique agreed to this strategy, opinion polls showed a surge of support for sovereignty. The most recent polls show voters evenly divided.

Labour Minister Lucienne Robillard, in charge of the federal government's referendum strategy, said the Parti Quebecois lacked the courage to mention the word "country" in the referendum question.

"I find it long and ambiguous," Mr. Robillard said. "I wonder how people are going to understand it."

Quebec's legislature is scheduled to start debating a bill Monday outlining the conditions under which the province would become independent. It will likely include keeping the Canadian dollar and allowing Quebecers to hold dual Canadian citizenship.

The referendum campaign began in earnest Wednesday with the gala presentation of a proposed declaration of independence intended to kindle Quebecers' nationalist fervour. Quebec's separatist premier, Jacques Parizeau, was teary-eyed when he applauded the reading of the declaration.

Belarus parliament softens election rules

MINSK, Belarus (AP) — Belarusian lawmakers have lowered the required parliamentary election turnout, hoping the measure would finally allow the former Soviet republic to elect its new legislature.

Last May, indifferent voters failed to form Belarus' first post-Soviet parliament, electing only 120 deputies in two rounds of balloting.

To begin functioning, the new 260-seat legislature must have at least two-thirds of its members, or 174 deputies.

The old Belarusian parliament, which was elected in 1990 — before the Soviet collapse — was to fill up the vacuum until the new one is

elected. However, it held its first post-election session only this week.

On Thursday, lawmakers lowered the required turnout threshold from 50 to 25 per cent of the eligible voters.

The next round of elections is scheduled for Nov. 29.

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko has harshly criticised the old parliament for the failure to comply with his policies, and set severe restrictions on campaigning for the new one in an effort to dislodge his opponents.

Communist candidates, loyal to Mr. Lukashenko, swept the May vote, and not a single candidate of the opposition Popular Front

made it to parliament.

In a referendum accompanying the election, which Mr. Lukashenko initiated, an overwhelming majority endorsed his policy of integration with Russia and restored the slightly changed Soviet-era Belarusian coat of arms, crowned with a red star, and the republic's red flag.

Mr. Lukashenko also has instructed the present parliament to gather only in unspecified extraordinary situations, his chief of staff Leonid Sinitsyn said Thursday.

Parliament leaders said they will ignore the order.

Embarrassing defeat touches off bitter feud among ruling S. African parties

CAPE TOWN (Agencies) — A bitter feud erupted between South Africa's two major parties Friday after their embarrassing defeat in parliament, when they failed to pass a crucial constitutional amendment.

The ruling African National Congress (ANC) of President Nelson Mandela and its partner in government, the formerly ruling National Party (NP), blamed each other for Thursday's parliamentary debacle.

The two parties failed to get enough of their members into parliament to meet the two-thirds requirement to pass the vital constitutional amendment, despite together enjoying a huge majority.

The failure of the vote threw a potential shadow over the planned Nov. 1 local government elections, as one of the amendments would have allowed for the staggering of the vote, a move that has become necessary as two provinces, KwaZulu-Natal and Western Cape, are unprepared.

The defeat comes at a time when the ANC is already red-faced over reports that its members are being tardy in attending vital parliamentary committees and sessions.

But the ANC shifted the blame for Thursday's defeat, charging that there were an "insufficient number of NP members ... when the vote was called."

"If they were present the amendments would have been carried," the ANC said in a statement, issued after a late-night meeting Thursday of its top policy organ, the National Working Committee.

The NP rejected this, with a spokesman accusing the ANC of having "far more" absent members and labelling the ruling party's parliamentary leaders as "complete idiots" for pushing ahead with a vote when there were not enough of their members present.

The ANC and NP needed to reach 327 votes to pass the amendment by the required two-thirds majority, but they managed to muster only 304.

An analysis of the voting record showed that the NP had a total of 63 of its 99 MPs and senators present when the vote was called in the joint sitting of the 400-member National Assembly and the 90-seat Senate.

This meant that out of possible total of 312 ANC MPs and senators, only 241 were in the house.

The ANC said that 27 of its members were either at the women's conference in Beijing, were sick or on official leave.

But that still leaves more than 40 ANC parliamentarians unaccounted for, a figure that meant if only 23 had been present, it would have been enough to pass the constitutional amendment.

Both ANC and NP spokesmen said the bill would be re-submitted to parliament Tuesday, when they hoped they would have enough of their members present to pass it.

"We will vote on it every day until it passes," said one NP parliamentarian.

The IFP labelled the constitution of the Republic of South Africa Second Amendment Bill as "constitutional gerrymandering."

The IFP was supported in this by all the other minority parties in parliament, which also rejected the amendment bill.

The IFP was also opposed to another of the constitutional amendments, which in effect would have allowed central government to pay the salaries of tribal chiefs, removing this power from provincial government.

The IFP views this an ANC attempt to buy the support of tribal chiefs, especially in KwaZulu-Natal, where the IFP holds provincial power.

Meanwhile about 300 IFP members rampaged through the Johannesburg City Council chambers Thursday to protest local elections rolls.

They smashed furniture, broke windows and tried to set fire to computers before leaving the chambers. No injuries or arrests were immediately reported.

The marchers, from a migrant workers' hostel in the black township of Soweto, complained that their names had been left off rolls for local elections scheduled for November.

Inkatha has complained of registration irregularities in the Johannesburg area.

The elections for new councils and rural authorities are the final step in the dismantlement of white minority government begun with last year's national elections, won by the ANC.

Tom Hanks pays tribute to Diana

LONDON (AFP) — U.S. actor Tom Hanks paid tribute to the Princess of Wales at the London premiere of his new film, Apollo 13, which she attended. Asked about the pressures of public life, Hanks said: "My wife Rita and I talk about this sort of thing a lot but we only have limited access to what the princess must have to cope with." She must have one of the hardest jobs in the world. For someone in the royal family it is not just 24 hours a day it is more like 26 hours a day but she does it with great grace and aplomb."

Caroline leaves fiancé behind on vacation

ANKARA (AP) — Was Princess Caroline of Monaco's vacation at sea a sign her engagement is on the rocks? The daily Hurriyet newspaper reported that Princess Caroline was with a man identified as Marc Boitel, 40, during an eight-day cruise on the Pacha III along Turkey's southern coastline. The report said Princess Caroline, who is engaged to French actor Vincent Lindon, took another holiday with Mr. Boitel last year after quarreling with her fiancé.

Hooker caught with Grant gets prison term

LOS ANGELES (R) — Hollywood prostitute Divine Brown, who was caught giving oral sex to British movie star Hugh Grant, will spend up to 180 days in prison for violating probation in a previous case, a court has sentenced. Ms. Brown, 25, whose real name is Estella Marie Thompson, pleaded no contest to the charge of lewd conduct in public for the incident with Grant that led to their arrest in his parked BMW in Hollywood on July 27. She was sentenced to 24 months' probation and fined a total of \$1,350. She must also serve five days of community service. Commissioner Robert Sandoval of the Hollywood Municipal Court also added 90 days to an original 90-day probation term for violating probation on a previous conviction of soliciting an act of prostitution in August 1993. Ms. Brown's lawyer, Richard Nahigian, said she would surrender to authorities on Nov. 2, when she must prove that she is undertaking an AIDS education course. "She got punished," prosecutor William Sterling said outside the courthouse, when asked if he was satisfied with the outcome. Following worldwide publicity over her arrest with Grant, Ms. Brown was reportedly paid thousands of dollars to tell her story to a British tabloid newspaper.

White House aide arrested after driving mishap

WASHINGTON (AFP) — White House senior adviser George Stephanopoulos was arrested and charged with leaving the scene of an accident and driving with an expired license after bumping into a car outside a restaurant late Thursday. Mr. Stephanopoulos was arrested shortly before midnight, charged and released two hours later, police Lieutenant Peter Wyskoczka said. The police officer refused to provide details of the accident, saying only that no one was injured in the accident. Another police officer who asked not to be identified said alcohol was not involved in the accident. In an interview after his release, Mr. Stephanopoulos said he brushed a car in front of him when he pulled his car out of a parking space outside a Georgetown restaurant. Obviously embarrassed, the 34-year-old Clinton aide said: "I'll never let my drivers license expire again." On June 27, Mr. Clinton's former Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers was arrested for driving the wrong way down a one-way street and was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol.

Simpson judge refuses to suppress evidence

LOS ANGELES (R) — Judge Lance Ito has refused to suppress important evidence in the O.J. Simpson double murder case, ruling that police had probable cause to enter and search the football hero's estate without a warrant.

Judge Ito made his written ruling as the defence legal "dream team" prepared to rest their case. They had argued that former police detective Mark Fuhrman, the first officer to enter the estate, was shown in controversial tape recordings to be a liar who was willing to fabricate probable cause.

The judge said Mr. Fuhrman's testimony on events the morning after Simpson's ex-wife and her friend were murdered on June 12, 1994, was corroborated by several other witnesses.

Earlier in the trial Mr. Fuhrman and other detectives testified they had cause to believe that someone could be injured, or even murdered, in Mr. Simpson's mansion, and decided to

climb a wall to gain access to the estate.

Once inside, Mr. Fuhrman testified, he found the infamous bloody glove lying in a leaf-strewn alleyway. The defence had sought to suppress all the evidence taken from the estate, including the bloody glove.

At a hearing Wednesday, Fuhrman was brought back to the stand but refused to answer questions, invoking his right under the U.S. Constitution against self-incrimination.

The defence has painted Mr. Fuhrman as a racist, rogue cop who planted the bloody glove to frame the black sports legend.

During his earlier testimony, Mr. Fuhrman swore he had not used the racial epithet "nigger" in the last 10 years. But the tape recordings of interviews with Mr. Fuhrman by screenwriter Laura McKinny from 1984 to 1994 contain 42 uses of the word, plus boasts about planting evidence and framing suspects.

Simpson has pleaded not

guilty to the stabbing deaths of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman outside Nicole Simpson's condominium.

Transcripts of a closed-door hearing in the judge's chambers Wednesday, made public Thursday, showed a tense exchange between Judge Ito and lead defence attorney Johnnie Cochran. At one point Mr. Cochran told Judge Ito, "your honour, I resent that tone. I'm a man just like you are, your honour."

Soon after Judge Ito said, "Mr. Cochran, let me just express to you some concern that I have regarding our personal relationship at this point in time ... I have chosen up to this point to ignore your press conference last Thursday and what I consider to be a direct contempt of this court."

At that news conference, Mr. Cochran blasted Judge Ito's decision to allow the jury to be given only two examples of Mr. Fuhrman's use of the "N" word, saying "the cover-up continues."

...the *history* makes the story of my father and my brothers' lives told repeatedly.

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Clearing the bench

EVEN THOUGH the crisis resulting from the mass resignation of senior judges seems to have a solution in sight, efforts to root out once and for all the reasons that prompted the move should not cease. Apparently these reasons go beyond the reported desire to obtain duty-free cars or state-provided means of transportation. In fact, judges deny that the current crisis was fuelled by the refusal of the government to grant them this privilege. Their demands, they say, target many aspects of their working conditions, ranging from health insurance to salaries among others.

The judiciary is a major pillar of the state. Its role is crucial to the proper functioning of the country. These facts necessitate that, first, the government provide judges with suitable conditions that allow for a smooth and focused administration of justice and, second, senior judges themselves should be more patient and prudent in their quest to achieve a better working environment.

The fact that more than two-thirds of the senior judges have decided to exercise their right to end their services is an indication of deep grievances that warrant immediate remedy. It is thus imperative for the government to examine carefully the demands of the judges and offer a solution that meets their just concerns and serves the interests of the state at the same time.

But the judges themselves should pause for a while and consider the repercussions of their move on the country. The threat of the complete paralysis of the higher — and also the lower — courts of the land is something that they should not force upon Jordanians. Before deciding to resign en masse, the honourable gentlemen should have resorted to other means to press their demands. They should not have opted for resigning before exhausting all other options available to them such as, for example, making their demands public or threatening a strike.

Only in the event that the government refused to meet their fair requirements might have the judges contemplated resignation.

Indications are at this point that the current crisis will be resolved. But the negative effects the resignations have had on the people will not disappear with the reversal of the decision to resign. Jordanians need to be assured that no such threat to their judicial system will appear in the future. That the government can do by using the current crisis as a prelude to launching a thorough review of their working conditions to ensure that all their legitimate concerns are addressed. As for the jurists themselves, they need to speak publicly about any grievances that they still have and to commit themselves not to repeat their action if their requirements are met.

The judges should pledge to never again threaten the administration of justice in the country and the government should introduce structural reforms that will ensure that the work of courts will not be halted as a result of disputes between the judiciary and the executive.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

ISRAEL'S DRIVE in cause demographically change the Arab city of Jerusalem and to end Christian and Muslim links with the Holy City will not succeed, Hamadeh Farach, a writer in Al Dustour daily, has wrote. Any moves that move the Arab city of Jerusalem and Christian and Muslim holy places and any disregard to the rights and feelings of the Arab people will not help the cause of peace, said the writer. The fact that the ambassadors of European states and the United States declined to attend the Israeli celebrations marking King David's occupation of the city 3,000 years ago reflects the world's rejection of Israel's annexation of Jerusalem which has been occupied since 1967 and the desecration of its holy places and Zionists' disregard of Arab rights in the city. The only acceptable solution to the problem of Jerusalem lies in considering the city as the capital of Israel and Palestine if stability and co-existence is to endure. A peaceful settlement to the Middle East question should be based on the respect of the interests and legitimate rights of both the Palestinians and the Israelis.

A WRITER in Al Ra'i said that despite the flurry of preparations underway in Jordan for the Middle East and North Africa economic conference due in Amman in late October, Jordan will not secure any gains from the coming event. Fahed Al Fanek said that it is the Americans who have the final say in any matter and they have taken their decision in advance of the meeting. During the three-day meeting Jordan will face unusual circumstances, its hotels will only be allowed to receive participants in the conference and no tourists while telephone services will be wholly consecrated to serving the delegations. According to the writer the Amman conference will endorse the establishment of the Middle East Development Bank which will be based in Cairo, the regional council for trade and investments which will be based in the West Bank to coordinate Arab-Israeli trade cooperation, and the regional council on tourism and travel which the Americans have already decided to establish in Tunisia. The writer said that the delegates from 60 nations will be here not to meet Jordanian officials but rather to meet one another for business in a country which is offering them all the facilities to achieve that purpose.

Jordanian Perspective

Action and inaction in battle for Jerusalem

By Dr. Musa Keilani

BY "CELEBRATING" what it describes as the 3,000th anniversary of Jerusalem, Israel is trying to rewrite history to suit its ambitions in the Holy City. If anyone wants to celebrate Jerusalem's history, then the starting point should be 2,000 years before King David's "conquest" of the place. Israelis can believe what they want, but the reality is that the Canaanites and Yehusites were the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the city was named after the Yehusite king, Ursalem, 2,000 years before King David was born. So much for King David's "conquest" of Jerusalem that the Jews argue has given the city to the Jews. By very conveniently side-stepping the Canaanite and Yehusite history of Jerusalem, Israel is engaged in an exercise which it hopes will pull the wool over the world's eyes.

The reasons behind the conspicuous absence of 53 from among the 70 countries invited to attend the launch of the Israeli bish in Jerusalem last week may vary. But one thing is quite clear: The international community is simply not ready to accept Israel's claim that "united Jerusalem" will remain the capital of the Jewish state and that no one except Jews have any right to the city.

The absence of the U.S. ambassador to Israel, Martio Indyk, from Monday's festivities that launched the 17-month Israeli party in Jerusalem should be very telling to Israel. It meant that the U.S., long regarded as the guardian angel of Israel, has sent a clear message to the Jewish state to take it easy before trying to predetermine the outcome of negotiations over Jerusalem with the Palestinians. Beyond that, however, is also the fact that Washington realises Muslim sentiments over Jerusalem and recognises that any American compliance with the Israeli designs in the city

would seriously put to question the U.S. role as a co-sponsor of the Arab-Israeli peace process and an honest mediator when it comes to snags in the peace negotiations. That, however, would not change the reality that the U.S. cannot be expected to throw its weight behind the legitimate claims of the Palestinians and Muslims to the Holy City.

As such we, Arabs and Muslims, are on our own when it comes to the final battle over Jerusalem.

The Europeans could be expected to give us help, but the extent of their help will largely depend on the extent of direct and indirect pressure that Israel would seek to apply on the European countries. The invitations that Israel sent out to the Europeans, along with others, were the first instalment of that pressure. And it seems that the Europeans not only withstood the onslaught but also hit back with a clear affirmation that they would not be party to any Israeli effort to undermine the Arab and Muslim positions vis-a-vis Jerusalem or predetermine the outcome of the final status Israeli-Palestinian negotiations coming up in 1996.

In the next few weeks and months we could see more of such pressure applied on the world community and we have to alert throughout to remind the world of the realities of the situation and the cunning tactics that go behind every move the Israelis make.

The recent furor over the presence of Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem and the Israeli drive to eliminate them is another part of the Jewish state's campaign to consolidate and legitimise its occupation of the Arab eastern sector of the city. The arguments that Israel has put up, citing the undertaking that the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) will confine its activities to the self-rule areas, do

not hold much water simply because the PNA represents the entire Palestinian nation and it is only natural that any Palestinian institution, whether in Jerusalem or anywhere else, would have links with their representative. This would remain an unshakable truth and reality regardless of the technicalities that Israel or anyone else would or could raise.

Given that background, it is Israel which is not living up to its commitments, particularly the written pledge that its foreign minister, Shimon Peres, had signed promising that the Jewish would not only refrain from trying to change the realities on the ground in Jerusalem until a final solution is worked out with the Palestinians but would also encourage the work of Palestinian institutions in the city.

We Arabs and Muslims have been talking a lot about Jerusalem and emphasising the need to do something to check the Israeli designs on the Arab Eastern sector of the city. But very little has been done.

It would be a timely reminder here that His Majesty King Hussein has repeatedly called for an all-out Arab-Muslim initiative, well thought-out and well-orchestrated, in the international scene to ensure that Israel would respect the Arab and Muslim rights to Jerusalem. It would seem that the call has not been picked up in the right context. As such, it is time that all those who have any sentiment towards Jerusalem to give the King's call serious thought and come together and produce an all-embracing initiative and campaign not only to reaffirm the Arab and Muslim rights to Jerusalem but also to ensure that Israel is denied room to manoeuvre.

Ex-guerrillas lose jobs as S. Africa cuts military

By David Tucker
Reuter

JOHANNESBURG — Thousands of guerrillas who fought white rule in South Africa are to lose their jobs in the country's integrated post-apartheid forces as part of deep cuts in defence spending.

The government is offering severance packages of up to 10,000 former guerrillas from the ruling African National Congress (ANC) disbanded military wing and the Azanian People's Liberation Army, the armed wing of the black radical Pan-Africanist Congress.

The armed forces stand at 135,000 including civilian support staff, but based on two-year-old estimates the level needs to be cut to around 90,000 and possibly

below that.

Defence force sources say about 70 per cent of the South African military is now black, compared to just over 50 per cent at the time of the April 1994 democracy elections.

Black ranks have been swollen by about 11,000 soldiers from the now defunct apartheid-created black homelands and the 16,450 former guerrillas integrated so far.

Most of the lower-ranking soldiers being offered redundancy packages are black, while senior officers taking early retirement are mostly whites drawn from a bloated officer corps.

"A process of natural attrition is also going on with many of the good (white) guys leaving because they feel they can't

get to the top any more," said defence analyst Jackie Cilliers.

Integration of former guerrillas and soldiers from the homelands into the old apartheid military was an essential element in reducing the risk that would have been posed by simply cutting the jobs immediately after the elections.

"The first priority was to get all the soldiers under control so they didn't run wild. Now the government has to think of a long-term strategy," said former brigadier Bill Sass, a senior analyst at the independent Institute for Defence Policy.

Many being offered packages are former guerrillas who do not see any careers for themselves in the integrated military. Others are

guerrilla veterans who fled South Africa in the 1960s and spent most of their lives in exile.

"They are those who sacrificed everything for the liberation struggle," said an ANC official.

In addition to the cash packages, most if not all will be offered pensions and 18-month contracts to join a service corps to help reintegration into a civilian life, in which about 40 per cent of South Africans are jobless.

About 6,000 civil service support jobs will also go and thousands of uniformed men and women who served South Africa's past white rule will be cut.

The government, which has given a committee until April to come up with an overall plan for the new

military, wants the cuts to be completed by 1999 when the next general elections are due.

"This is the first time the ANC government is going to put together a defence force the way they want it to look," said Mr. Sass.

"The government must decide whether it wants a traditional African infantry arm, or a high-tech streamlined force."

"Most modern defence forces... have moved away from massed, barefoot peasant armies armed only with AK-47s. Modern defence forces need good, well-maintained equipment. To afford it you have to reduce something, probably manpower," said Mr. Sass.

South Africa is under increasing pressure from Western countries, includ-

ing the United States, to become more actively involved in peacekeeping, especially in Africa.

But defence sources said the cuts, lack of cash and a lack of will on the part of the Pretoria government to become heavily involved in such duties made this a non-starter.

"The army is supporting police anti-crime operations and internal peacekeeping duties in the country's volatile Zululand heartland — KwaZulu-Natal Province — where political violence still threatens stability."

"At the moment we have two or three battalions on border duties and other battalions off to KwaZulu-Natal to support the police. There are no troops... for anything else," said Mr. Sass.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Pushing for a place

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

THE PALESTINIAN-Israeli negotiations, general Arab affairs, the Iraqi question, the controversy over the acceptance of students in state universities were the main topics discussed by the local newspapers in the past week.

Al Ra'i daily expressed pessimism over the conclusion of an agreement between the Palestine National Authority and Israel on the implementation of the Oslo agreement. It said that the fact that the head of the Palestinian delegation to the talks had admitted that 300 points were still outstanding on the agenda meant that no imminent agreement was within sight. The paper said that an observer of the progress of the negotiations could not help noting that it was the Israelis that were placing obstacles in the path of an agreement and that conditions imposed on the Palestinians are causing the delay in expanding the self-rule in Palestine.

Perhaps the water question is the most difficult issue in the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian negotiations over the expansion of the self-rule in Palestine at the moment, said Ibrahim Zazour, a writer in Al Ra'i. He said that it was true that Israel has recognised the Palestinian people's right to water resources but the Israeli government has not defined the Palestinian share of that water because if it did that it would be recognising Arab sovereignty on these resources, something against the Zionists' policies in Palestine. The writer said that without water no Palestine state can survive and therefore Israel which is intent on depriving the Palestinians of the right to an independent state is determined not to give the Palestine National Authority any sovereignty over water resources which are to be kept totally under Israeli control.

Expressing the view of the futility of the Arab-Israeli negotiations, Ahmad Misleh said that the Zionists do not respect Arab rights in Palestine and continue to scoff at Muslims claim to their holy places in Jerusalem. Quoting a statement by former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban published in The Jerusalem Post as saying that Jerusalem was never mentioned in the Koran, the writer said that the former minister is exploiting religion in an attempt to prove that the city is for the Jews alone. The writer said that despite the negotiations and the agreements reached between the Palestinians and the Israelis, the Israeli government is going ahead with plans to Judaise the city by expanding settlements around it and by evicting the indigenous Arab inhabitants from it. The writer said that the Israelis continue to distort historic facts in order to justify their continued occupation of the city and Palestinian lands.

A writer in Al Ra'i tackled the recent revelations by retired Israeli army officers who admitted to killing hundreds of Egyptian prisoners of war in the 1956 and 1967 wars with the Arabs. Tareq Masarweh said the Israelis and the world at large are keeping silent over these revelations and nothing is being said about trying and punishing those responsible for the massacre. He said that the Israelis are saying that because the massacre happened 20 years ago, a long time ago and that nothing could be done now; but they forget that Israel abducted Eichman and other World War II criminals and tried them for alleged crimes against the Jews committed 40 years ago. The writer said that had the facts been reversed and that retired Egyptian army officers admitted killing Israeli prisoners of war, the whole world would have

raised the hue and cry over the situation.

Mohammad Kawash, a writer in Al Dustour said that the U.S.-Israeli strategy is based on strengthening Israel militarily and fragmenting the Arab countries around it and keeping the Arab World in total disarray. The writer quoted former Israeli Prime Minister David Ben Gurion as writing in his memoirs that the only means of enabling Israel to rule supreme in the region is through keeping the Arab countries involved in internal conflicts socially and politically. The writer said that is the reason behind the U.S.-Israeli strategy of isolating Iraq and keeping the country divided and weak and that is why the alliance is preventing Arab states from rallying their ranks and achieving unity.

His views were echoed by Tareq Masarweh who said that Israel is intent on cutting Jordan's ties with Iraq and keeping Jordan isolated from the Arab World totally dependent on Israel and the United States. The writer said that the United States and Israel are concerned with continually preventing any good relations among the Arab countries and preventing the Arabs from protecting their national interests. Jordan can establish good relations with the Gulf states while keeping its ties with Iraq intact because the national interests of the Kingdom make it imperative on it to follow this course. Israel and the United States should realise that Jordan will continue to protect its national interests and maintain its ties with all Arab states regardless of their pressures intended to change the situation.

A writer in Al Dustour said that by creating an axis involving Syria, Iran and Egypt, Damascus is trying to offset any moves on the part of other Middle East parties that are trying to have a hand in the future of Iraq. Saleh Qallah said that Syria is saying that Iraq's

sovereignty and territorial integrity should not be tampered with because Syria does not want to see a Kurdish state created in northern Iraq on Syrian borders and does not want to see the regime in Iraq falling in the hands of groups hostile to the Baath rule. At the same time Syria is trying to prove to the United States that Damascus is handling matters related to Iraq and that Damascus' views should be taken into consideration in any arrangement for Iraq's future.

Sultan Al Hattah criticised the system by which students are accepted in state universities in Jordan. Writing in Al Ra'i, he said that students who passed the Tawjihi examinations with 80 per cent grades are deprived of pursuing their higher education although they are tax payers fulfilling all their national duties while others with clout and poor results are allowed to enrol. This is unfair by all standards. All privileges given to certain groups as well as endowment lists giving priority to others, except for the poor, over other students should be cancelled so as to give equal and fair chance to all the students.

Huda Fakhouri, a writer in Al Dustour, criticised the Amman municipality for allowing a great number of cafes to mushroom in the capital instead of encouraging the emergence of social and cultural clubs. The writer said that residents of various districts are disturbed by the noise of singing and the smoke emitted by the cafes in their districts every evening. She said that it is regrettable to find no chess clubs or sports and cultural centres which cause no disturbance to peace appearing amidst the residential areas. The writer said that the cafes are encouraging the irresponsible youths to behave shamefully while organised clubs can help them develop sound minds and bodies.

LETTERS

Shopping without success

To the Editor:

I READ with great delight the piece written by Mr. Ramt G. Khouri entitled "Shopping for cotton socks and the Arab future."

It is quite refreshing to be reassured that somewhere in this enormously challenging void there in a pulse still alive.

I want to congratulate Mr. Khouri for having found the cotton socks. I also hope the ones he bought were white. For as far back as I can remember, I've been looking for cotton socks — any colour — without success.

Osman Ghandour,
Amman.

Distorted images

To the Editor:

ON TUESDAY Aug. 29, while I was watching TV with my family after dinner as we usually do, suddenly, I heard Arabic names mentioned. It was the series "True Blue" in an episode about child kidnapping by terrorists named Hakkim and Suzzan from Third World countries. Later I saw our men head cover "Shmagh" in the bus, which has been hijacked that showed that we are "animals" as one of the children's mother said.

At first I thought it was Israeli TV, which always depicts us as inhumane. But, I noticed that it was Jordan TV, Channel 2.

I would like to hear an explanation about airing this programme from the television programmes department.

Awatif Abu Al Ru'h,
Amman.

Caution, but no lists

To the Editor:

CONCERNING THE item entitled "What List?" in last Thursday's Society on the Move column, urgent clarification is in order.

Contrary to what Ms. Hamaneh reported, I most certainly did not tell Ms. Najjar that Jordan had been placed on a State Department Travel Advisory List. I told her that several CNN personnel staying at a hotel in Amman had received a note apprising Americans of the situation and advising caution. I definitely did not say anything about an official Travel Advisory List.

I am surprised that Ms. Hamaneh never took the effort to contact me directly, or the obvious diplomatic sources.

Ben Wedeman,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Features

King calls for new approach to end Iraqis' suffering

(Continued from page 1)

again. I hope that the Iraqi people will enjoy political pluralism, democracy and respect of human rights, and I hope that a reconciliation among its various groups and factions will materialise.

The picture is very painful and we continue to hear about the suffering of our brothers and kinsmen there resulting from the blockade, foreign pressure and the economic situation. Jordan will remain an open gate to provide the Iraqis with food and medicine within the framework of U.N. resolutions.

Recently I have come to see a very sad picture about the suffering of the Iraqi people and their deprivation of human rights. Information about this situation came from reliable sources, causing a shock to me. We must do the impossible and use all means to rescue the Iraqi people.

Q: Did you have contacts with Hussein Kamel before he came to Jordan? A: There were no contacts. The last time Hussein Kamel came here was when he was on his way back home from Moscow, a few weeks before his defection. He carried a message from the Iraqi leadership at the time, seeking Moscow's help in ending the suffering of the Iraqi people and the sanctions imposed on Iraq.

I believe that Iraq must implement all U.N. Security

Council resolutions. These resolutions do not only entail the removal of all weapons of mass destruction. There is a world power with great influence demanding that the Iraqis settle the Kuwaiti prisoners question and give the people in the north and south their rights.

Therefore, there is no alternative to reconsidering all Iraqi policies as I said in a message to the Iraqi leadership through Hussein Kamel. If they are willing to do that, then they are welcome to discuss with us what could be done.

Q: Were you surprised by the defection? A: Yes I was. I first thought he was bringing me a message. He was a young and brilliant man who had assumed responsibility for the Iraqi armed forces under the most critical circumstances, carried out his duty as best as he could, conducted scientific research to develop his country and was responsible for the creation of the Republican Guards. This man could have stayed in his prominent position but he was in despair following his failure to bring about reform, and he decided to come to Jordan, where he is welcome to stay. His aim was to point to the facts in Iraq and disclose the extent of the suffering of the Iraqi people to the world.

Q: Did Uday Saddam Hussein come to make peace with

Hussein Kamel or to take him back to Baghdad?

A: He came to take him back saying that perhaps the man had come here for health reasons or due to family disputes. We told Uday that he came to stay at his uncle's residence here. As to Uday's quest to meet with his family, that was a matter totally left to the concerned parties. I found that Uday's sisters' reply to a meeting was negative as they did not wish to meet him.

As to why he was allowed to address the press from my home, that was in order to give him the chance to reply to the accusations levelled at him... This man could have lived at ease in his country but has opted for the difficult road outside his country.

Q: Some people say Saddam's daughters were forced by their husbands to come to Amman. Is that so? A: Not at all. I am convinced by my own family members that they came with their own free will and they had known of their husbands' decision. They are welcome to live here.

Q: Are you ready to host an Iraqi government — in exile in Jordan?

A: Any talk about this subject is premature. I believe there should be understanding among Arab countries over the Iraqi question and there should be a consensus on saving the Iraqi people. Iraq consists of three main elements. According to the 1958 constitution they enjoy

full rights. I believe that we should seek a meeting by representatives of the three elements within a national reconciliation framework. Such a meeting will help draw the main outlines for the country's future and so secure its sovereignty and territorial integrity and unity.

There is no alternative to a new formula and a new thinking for achieving the objective of rescuing Iraq and its people from their present plight.

I repeat for the tenth time that I have no personal ambition except to carry out my duty towards this people. I would never accept any offer to assume a leadership position in Iraq. But I will continue to extend a helping hand to the Iraqi people with all my might and I will continue to act as my conscience compels me to act to help save the Iraqis from their suffering and dangers. Should the present situation persist, parties surrounding Iraq could be encouraged to exploit the situation for their own interest at the expense of Iraqi land and this would pose a new challenge to Arab leaders.

Q: Is there a Jordanian plan for Iraq's future?

A: This is my view and remarks about the situation in Iraq. I stand by the Iraqi people and call for national reconciliation, for political, ethnic and factional pluralism in Iraq and a situation that would help Iraq come out safe and sound out of the

present situation. Q: What do you say about people's talk about Jordan's influence in Iraq?

A: I hope there is influence that would be a positive one to help the Iraqis. People ask if we have changed our position. Our position remains the same from the start. We hope to convince the Iraqi leadership through dialogue of our ideas that will help Iraq avoid dangers.

Q: Why was Syria angered when you welcomed Hussein Kamel?

A: I have no explanation for this. I have no interest or objective except to help save the Iraqi people from their plight but our Arab brothers might have other views and perhaps some ambitions of which I am not aware. Had Hussein Kamel gone to another country including Syria I would not have been angered. Indeed I find no justification for anger.

Q: Did you inform the other Arab countries of Hussein Kamel's defection? A: As soon as he came I contacted Saudi Arabia through a message I sent to King Fahd but no others. Q: Do you think Syria's anger resulted from Jordan's views with regard to the peace process?

A: Jordanians will remain proud with their heads raised high. We will never be subject to the desires of any other party and we will do all that which keeps our conscience at rest. We do not believe in idolising individuals

but we believe in our people. What is being said about us, being a toy in the hands of other nations, is totally untrue. We never compromise on our dignity or our rights.

Q: What about the rumours alleging the creation of new alliances following the defection?

A: We have no objectives and we are not oriented to make such alliances against any Arab block.

Q: Do you still have contacts with Syria at present?

A: Contacts are continuing and have never been disrupted.

Q: Egypt has shown its dismay. What happened?

A: I have no explanation for this. It was noticed that the Egyptians are angered when they are not in the picture about any event in the region.

Q: Do you believe that the Assad-Mubarak summit was directed against Jordan?

A: No, I do not believe so. Q: What is your answer to views that Jordan is going too far in its dealings with Israel? A: In my view Jordan is trying to make up for lost time and hoping through this relation to convince Israel that coexistence can offer a great service to all. The Israelis have been apprehensive about the Arab atmosphere around them. This naturally affects them. If a just and honourable solution has been found there can be no reason or justification for bilateral relations not to be normal and utilised to offer

the future generations all the good chances for development.

Q: How do you view the situation in Israel, especially in the event of a change of government there?

A: At present there is no question about the existing relationship between Israel and Jordan. But I do not know about future changes. Should there be a bloody change resulting from bloody and painful events in the region these would encourage extremism, which is not conducive to peace, nor will it be in the interest of the Palestinian cause or the Arab cause or even Israel's cause.

Q: There has been talk about Israelis buying land in Jordan. What is your view?

A: Such issue is restricted through laws and regulations. Any talk in this matter is baseless.

Q: What do you expect from the Amman summit meeting?

A: I believe it will offer us a good chance to open up to the future. The world is viewing this region through a sound and peaceful perspective whose dividends are bound to achieve a great deal to all parties.

Q: Will the Muslim Brotherhood enter the government?

A: The government is staying. The Muslim Brotherhood had entered the government in the past. If they believe in the state's policies and are ready to conform to them I do not see any reason to prevent their joining the government.

Q: Do you plan to dissolve Parliament?

A: No. No. I am unaware of any talk of this kind. Are you not afraid that a botch activity might happen as a result of court verdicts against fundamentalists or because of your stand vis-a-vis Iraq?

A: We have coexisted with dangers and challenges. This is part of our life. Things might happen any time as there are many parties active in this region and elsewhere in the world. But I have absolute confidence in the majority of the Jordanian people's awareness and appreciation of their interests. But of course there are some people who live in the past or in isolation from the facts. I hope that Jordan will continue to serve as an example for tolerance, pluralism and democracy and respect of human rights.

Q: What about Jordan's relations with the Gulf states? A: These are supposedly brotherly relations. These relations were cool for some time due to passing events. Once the facts are known to all, relations will be restored to normal. We are in contact with the Gulf states and the relations are improving. Q: What about your meeting with King Fahd?

A: I have exchanged messages with the Saudi monarch and our foreign minister made visits to Saudi Arabia. I have great hopes of meeting with King Fahd soon.

Jordan invites Belgians to invest

(Continued from page 12)

water, telecommunications, industrial zones, all supported by well developed banking and financial services.

"Jordan's economic and social achievements took place notwithstanding the different external shocks that we experienced such as the decline in oil prices and Arab aid, and the two Gulf wars. However, with the support of its friends, Jordan managed to face the challenges in a pragmatic manner. The economic recovery was far better than what was envisaged by many. With the breakthrough in the peace process, economic recovery is expected to take on a special momentum reflecting the positive impact of peace on the investment climate in Jordan and the region."

"Peace making has taken enormous efforts and commitment from the parties involved in the process. Sustaining this peace is an even more formidable task. The present reconciliation of positions put an end to past enmity and paved the way for future friendship. Jordan has done and is still doing all it can to make the peace process a success. It is actively promoting regional economic development and cooperation which is the essence of achieving durable and lasting peace."

"All partners have to work together to pool efforts to enjoy what we all aspire for namely: a conflict free region living in prosperity. A region where the dividends of peace politically, socially and economically are distributed equitably among its peoples. A region in which each country actively participates in a regional process of security and cooperation. A region that offers free movement of peoples, goods and capital. Peace brings with it expectations for a better and

happier future. It should be remembered that peace is ultimately not in the hands of governments but of individuals. Having made peace we have to move to peace building. We need to build a firm and sound structure that can stand the economic and political challenges laying ahead. Thus, peace agreements must be augmented by sustainable development that translates itself into increased employment, better incomes, and higher standards of living for everybody."

"The Amman Economic Summit will differ from its predecessor, the Casablanca Summit, in a number of ways. First, it will be specific, more focused on private sector participation. Second, it will be geared to investment. Third, it will concentrate on a selected group of industries, allow for product matching and establish a data base for future business activities. Fourth, a number of workshops are being held prior and during the summit on the key sectors to be agreed upon."

"Jordan has been working on restructuring its economy. Laws to encourage investment and laws pertaining to developing free zones are being revised. The laws on the protection of intellectual property rights are under consideration paving the way for the impending accession of Jordan to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and for a closer partnership with the EU."

"The central location of Jordan in the Middle East, and between Europe, Africa and Asia, and its political stability are added advantages that make Jordan a place to look to if you are intending to do business in this region. In brief, Ladies and Gentlemen, Jordan is the gateway to business in the Middle East."

Israel, PLO remain in impasse

(Continued from page 1)

"There is a crisis in the talks," said Mr. Sarid, who is environment minister. "The crisis is mainly over the Hebron issue. We will overcome this crisis."

Mr. Peres said the sides had resolved several economic issues and reached an agreement on water rights — in which the amount of water supplied to Palestinians in the West Bank would be doubled over five years from 30 million to 60 million cubic metres a year.

He said no agreement was reached on sharing the electricity grid in the West Bank and that the Palestinians had proposed international arbitration.

The Palestinians are also dissatisfied with the size of the areas Israel was offering to vacate around the other towns slated for autonomy — Nabulus, Jenin, Tulkarm, Kalkilya, Ramallah and Bethlehem, Israel TV said the PLO demanded a 40 per cent

increase in the size of the autonomous areas.

"We want the area to be beyond what was on the maps we were shown," said negotiator Abdul Razak Yehia.

But the main dispute was over Hebron. Tensions have run high in the town since a settler massacred at least 30 Palestinians at its Ibrahimi Mosque in February 1994.

Mr. Rabin said Friday that although he supported protection of Jewish holy sites in Hebron, he has never advocated a Jewish settlement in the city.

The prime minister noted that the small Jewish presence of 415-430 settlers in the city disrupted the lives of some 120,000 Arabs living there.

"Describe for yourself a situation where 120,000 Jews who live in a city, the decisive majority, are prevented from doing things because of 415 non-Jews. What would we say then?" Mr. Rabin said.

Iraq wants to maintain strong ties with Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

Saddam for another seven-year term and his candidacy is to be approved by a special session of parliament opening Sunday.

The reelection of President Saddam — unchallenged as head of state since July 1979 — will then go to a referendum to be held within two months, under a change to the July 1970 constitution agreed Thursday.

"It is a farce and a desperate attempt by the regime to improve the image of a power that never knew democracy or human rights," Gen. Kamel said.

The Iraqi people, he added, "have the right to a democracy and is capable of choosing a direction that will save it from suffering and repair the errors of the last decades."

"We want a real democracy and we will not allow anyone to empty it of its contents," said the general, who called for toppling the Baghdad government shortly after his defection. "We demand the establishment of a multi-party system, free presidential and legislative elections, freedom of the press and independent courts."

The general said he planned to pursue his "political plan for the establishment of a democracy in Iraq and the protection of rights of those at all levels of Iraqi society."

If President Saddam's election move was aimed at improving the government's image and helping to bring an end to sanctions, it was dismissed as a "sham" by an Iraqi opposition group.

"We know the result in advance — a 99.99 per cent 'yes' vote, as in all dictatorships," said Akram Al Hakim, an official from the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI).

"Saddam is taking measures to try and give himself some legitimacy" after last month's defections, Mr. Hakim told AFP from London.

don. "There can be no real referendum as long as the services of repression are still in operation."

An RCC spokesman in Baghdad noted that President Saddam had planned to hold presidential elections "ever since 1982" to take Iraq "from revolutionary legitimacy to constitutional legitimacy."

But the Iran-Iraq conflict of 1980-1988 and then the 1991 war for Kuwait blocked the way, as well as the U.N. embargo since the invasion of Kuwait, the spokesman said.

"In the face of scepticism abroad over implementation of these decisions in principle, the leadership has judged it would now be in the country's interests to hold a referendum, despite the embargo," the spokesman explained.

The poll "is an answer to the lies stated by the enemies," he added.

Meanwhile the Iranian, Syrian and Turkish foreign ministers met behind closed doors in Tehran Friday to discuss intra-Kurdish clashes in northern Iraq and the country's uncertain future.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency quoted Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati as saying before the meeting began that he hoped it would promote peace and stability in the region.

Foreign ministers Erdal Inonu of Turkey and Farouk Al Sharaa of Syria also attended the meeting, where they are expected to reiterate the three countries' commitment to keeping Iraq intact to prevent a power vacuum in the volatile region.

The fighting in northern Iraq is currently between the Kurdistan Democratic Party, one of the main Iraqi Kurdish groups, and the Turkish Kurdish Labour Party (PKK).

The separatist PKK, which uses bases in northern Iraq to wage a guerrilla campaign in Turkey, attacked the KDP last week in an apparent

effort to torpedo a U.S.-brokered peace accord between the KDP and its main Iraqi rival, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

Iran and Turkey, whose Kurdish minorities are particularly troublesome, oppose the emergence of an independent Kurdish state in Iraq for fear it will encourage their restive Kurds.

There are some 10 million in Turkey and 5.5 million in Iran.

Iraq's neighbours also do not want to see Iraq, reeling under five years of U.N. trade sanctions, fragment into a Kurdish-controlled north, Sunni Muslim centre and Shiite Muslim south if the Baghdad regime collapses.

A senior Iranian official said Friday that the massive U.S. military buildup in the Gulf had agitated the region and heightened insecurity.

"What are you doing here? What is behind this large presence of U.S. forces?" asked Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, the forceful head of Iran's judiciary.

Speaking in a weekly prayer sermon at Tehran University, he said Washington's claims of sending forces to preserve security in the Gulf were specious.

"The U.S. presence does nothing but create insecurity and anxiety in the region," Mr. Yazdi said in comments aired on Tehran Radio.

The United States currently has more than 20,000 troops and 30 warships in the region.

It beefed up forces last month after alleged unusual Iraqi troop movements and disclosures by Gen. Kamel that Baghdad had planned to attack Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Yazdi said that Iran was "officially declaring that this region must be administered by the residents of the region."

"Foreigners have no right to be here, especially to have troops," he said.

U.N. extends Iraq sanctions

(Continued from page 1)

Last month, after the defection to Jordan of its weapons chief, Iraq disclosed an ambitious biological weapons programme. It admitted having 199 missiles and bombs tipped with germ warfare agents, and a crash programme to make a nuclear weapon.

In July, Iraq admitted for the first time having germ stockpiles, including anthrax and botulinum cultures. The information came after U.N. inspectors found 500,000 litres of biological agents.

Iraqi scientists also had been trying to develop toxins that destroy crops and leave people incapacitated, U.N. weapons inspector Charles Duelfer said Thursday.

Iraq claims to have destroyed the toxins in 1991 after the Gulf war, he said.

Mr. Gnehm said the Iraqi government must understand

that "the game of cat and mouse is over."

"Because Iraq completely lacks credibility, thorough verification of its disclosures remains the key for the future," he said.

U.N. resolutions require Iraq to destroy its long-range missiles and weapons of mass destruction — nuclear, biological and chemical — before the sanctions are lifted.

U.N. weapons inspectors are studying roughly 500,000 pages of weapons-related documents gathered in Iraq, a process they say could take months.

U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright said last month that serious consideration of the easing of sanctions might not occur for a year.

The U.S. State Department said Thursday the recent disclosures about Iraq's extensive biological weapons

programme strongly support the case for maintaining the sanctions against the country.

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said Iraq "admits that it lied and cheated."

"We will in no way support any relaxation of sanctions," he said, adding that no country "that is serious" on the United Nations panel will see to lift the sanctions.

Since U.N. special commissioner Rolf Ekeus received information on the detailed biological and chemical weapons programme by Iraq, including the development of agents that cause gangrene, blindness and bleeding lungs, Mr. Burns said. "If anything, there is more moral information that bolsters the case for sanctions," he added.

"We are back to square one," said Italy's ambassador Francesco Paolo Fulehi recently, before he took over the Security Council's rotating presidency.

Cabinet meets today on judges

(Continued from page 1)

Minister of Justice Hisham Tal that the independence of the judicial authority could not be complete unless all means of a comfortable life are available for the judges.

Another lawyer, Saleb Armouti, called on the government not only to meet the demands of the judges but

also to offer them more incentives. Calling for more guarantees to the total separation between the judiciary and the executive authorities, Mr. Armouti said that the law on the independence of the judiciary should be amended to make it impossible for the minister of

justice to have any authority over the judiciary.

Lawyer Fares Nabulsi criticised the minister for stating that the judges' resignation was politically motivated.

"It is as if we have gone back to the martial era, with citizens accused of belonging to banned parties while the judges have taken their decision without being influenced by any party," Mr. Nabulsi, a former deputy, said.

Balkan ministers adopt plan

(Continued from page 1)

from Muslim nations Thursday backed the Bosnian peace initiatives by the Contact Group as well as continued air strikes to force an end to the Serb siege of Sarajevo.

In their first meeting with the contact group plus Canada, Spain, Italy, ministers of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) welcomed the more forceful U.N. and NATO stance but said it was high time.

Northeast Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) warplanes have extended their air campaign against the Bosnian Serbs to include roads and bridges in the hope of increasing the "pain" to batter the Serbs into removing heavy weapons from around the Bosnian capital, U.N. officials said.

Despite several days of bombing raids against Serb military installations, U.N. officials said there is no sign of the Bosnian Serb leadership caving into western pressure to remove any of the estimated 300 heavy weapons from around Sarajevo.

In Naples, a NATO spokeswoman said the alliance had no plans to suspend its airstrikes against the Bosnian Serbs in the absence of any sign that they were complying with demands to withdraw their heavy weaponry around Sarajevo.

"The missions continued throughout the day yesterday and will continue all day (Friday)," said spokeswoman Anna Cansano.

U.N. military spokesman Chris Vernon told reporters at a morning briefing in Sarajevo that escalating the air campaign was "under consideration as we talk." He added that NATO had been "restraining (its) target lists to see if the (Bosnian Serbs) will react to a lower pain threshold."

NATO planes, he added, had already begun targeting roads and bridges in eastern Bosnia, a hilly and mountainous area with a pre-war Muslim majority that borders Serbia.

In Belgrade, news agencies said two people were killed and several more wounded following NATO raids overnight in eastern Bosnia, including Fica and Kalinovik, where a person was killed in each and bridges were destroyed.

S. Pacific anger hits France

(Continued from page 1)

France's minister for economic development and cooperation, Jacques Godfrain, was due to be part of forum dialogue meeting in Papua New Guinea next week.

Tuesday's test and the Tahiti riots meant it was expected the heads of the forum's 15 governments, who meet in Papua New Guinea earlier next week, will consider whether to withdraw the invitation, Mr. Sasako said.

Nauru has called for France's expulsion from the

meeting.

In Paris, French Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette said he was "deeply shocked" by the presence of Japanese Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura at an anti-nuclear protest in Tahiti last weekend.

Meanwhile, soccer stars in Italy, including two French internationals, will remove their team shirts at the end of Sunday's first division league matches to reveal.

"No to Nuclear Tests." T-shirts worn underneath, the environmentalist group Greenpeace said.

Murayama to visit Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

support Jordan's role in the peace process."

"We attach great importance to the role of Jordan in the region and are keen to do what we could to help strengthen it," the ambassador told the Jordan Times. In an earlier interview, the ambassador highlighted that under the Tokyo Declaration, issued during a visit by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to the Japanese capital in May, Japan considers the Kingdom as the "gateway to the Middle East."

Japan chairs the working group on the environment, one of the five working groups of the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process. It also plays a key role in water-related issues and regional economic cooperation designed to support and consolidate the Arab-Israeli peace process.

Mr. Murayama's visit to the Middle East, his first after taking office, was reported three weeks ago, but Jordan was not among the countries in the schedule then since it was not clear whether the King would be here on Sept. 18.

Confirmation that Jordan was included in the schedule came on Thursday and it was confirmed by a Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman in Tokyo after a cabinet meeting on Friday.

The Japanese prime minister's visit to the Middle East despite intense political activities at home after recent parliamentary elections is seen as a reaffirmation of Tokyo's keen interest in developing relations with the countries of the region and assuming a higher-profile political role after spending many years mostly as an aide donor with little active part in

the politics of the region.

While in Egypt and Syria, the prime minister is expected to announce aid to restore ancient sites in the two countries — the Sphinx in Egypt and the city of Palmyra in Syria.

It was not immediately known whether Mr. Murayama will announce any aid to Jordan during the visit. Tokyo and Amman are discussing several projects for possible Japanese financing as well as for grant aid. These include bridges and crossing points across the River Jordan and access roads.

Jordan became eligible for Japanese grant aid in 1993 after the Kingdom's per capita income dipped below \$1,200. Since then the Kingdom has received over \$40 million in Japanese grants.

Japan is also Jordan's largest creditor, holding about \$1.8 billion of the Kingdom's foreign debts of \$5.6 billion. Tokyo recently agreed to adjust interest on the loans to alleviate the rising burden of the loans given in Japanese yen as the Japanese currency gained strength against the dollar.

Japanese foreign policy does not allow for cancellation of foreign dues and continued development loans. As such, Tokyo has promised to make more funds available to Jordan at concessional terms to help the Kingdom's balance of payments and build foreign currency reserves.

Japanese officials also indicated recently that the Tokyo government was considering "some kind of a formula under which Jordan's debt burden could be further reduced." The formula could be on a bilateral level as well as on a multilateral level with the Paris Club of creditor governments.

Economy

Arab Gulf states seek stronger control of banks

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf states are seeking to tighten their grip on their wealthy banking sector to avert fresh financial crises and bring banks in line with international standards, officials have said.

The six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, which control 45 per cent of the world's oil, have created a joint committee to supervise bank activities and upgrade auditing by their central banks and the commercial banks.

The measures are part of overall reforms in the banking system aimed at expanding its capital base and preventing a repetition of a crippling debt crisis that forced several banks to merge in mid-1980s to stave off collapse.

The reforms were triggered by new banking rules issued by the Bank for International Settlement (BIS) for banks worldwide and they gained momentum following the 1991 collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International.

GCC central bank governors are due to discuss the measures at a meeting after annual talks in Damascus on Saturday by central bank chiefs from the 22-member Arab League, the official Gulf news agency reported.

"The GCC central bank governors will meet in Damascus on Sunday to discuss developments in their banking sector, especially reports by technical committees on strengthening auditing on banks," it said.

GCC states hope such measures would convince the BIS's Basle Committee of dropping them from a list of high-risk countries in lending activities.

Saudi Arabia was the only Arab state to have been excluded from that list on the grounds it was the fifth biggest creditor to the World Bank.

The other GCC members — Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — have said they would press ahead with banking reforms, including incentives for merging banks.

"Merger is one of the best means to consolidate the banking sector and create large units capable of facing competition," director of the Muscat stock exchange, Mahmoud Al Farwani, told AFP by telephone.

Incentives in Oman have so far resulted in the merger of two main national banks while other banks are considering following suit. Authorities have also instructed banks to raise capital to at least \$26 million.

The UAE has carried out the most sweeping reforms, telling its 47 banks they should report to the central bank regularly on their financial position.

It has also set a floor of 40 million dirhams (\$10.89 million) for the capital of each bank and introduced curbs on lending within a series of measures that also affected other financial and investment bodies.

"We are not interfering in the business of banks but we believe it is time to exercise some kind of monitoring on them in this age, where only strong banking units will survive," a Gulf central bank official said.

Bankers said the reforms benefited banks as they would strengthen them in face of international competition following the creation of the World Trade Organisation, which replaced the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

"Stronger supervision on banks will prevent fresh crises that have negatively affected the Gulf banking sector. This will create a more solid, healthier banking system," a UAE bank manager said.

"Such measures are also needed to face competition from giant international banking units which will seek to spread their services across the boundaries in line with the GATT free trade pact."

GCC states have explained such reforms to Basle Committee during two rounds of negotiations. Officials said they had told it that most Gulf banks now exceeded the eight per cent level defined by Basle as a floor for bank capital adequacy, the ratio between assets and shareholders' equity.

GCC states have around 130 national and foreign banks with assets of nearly one-third of the total assets of Arab banks of around \$550 billion. The figure does not include Bahrain's offshore banks, which have assets of around \$60 billion.

CBJ studying issuance of a JD 50 banknote

By Ziyad Al Shilleh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) is seriously considering the issuance of a JD 50 banknote, CBJ Governor Mohammad Said Al Nabulsi told the Arabic daily Al Ra'i.

Dr. Nabulsi said the CBJ was also studying the issuance of small denomination coins, because of their long circulation life span which could reach up to 50 years. He indicated that the new one JD coin would reduce the high cost of printing banknotes, which only have a year-long circulation life. The new one JD coin, he said, was meant to meet the daily needs of citizens for this small denomination of currency.

The CBJ official said it was too early to change the banknotes currently in circulation just to avoid counterfeit, noting that banknotes counterfeit was a global phenomenon, which was not restricted to the Jordanian banknotes. Irrespective of how perfect they are.

Dr. Nabulsi said the paper used in printing the banknotes was of a very high quality and that there was no need now to change the notes since the CBJ had changed all the banknotes in 1993.

In a reference to the recently issued one JD note, Dr. Nabulsi said: "We have not changed anything except adding the phrase 'the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan' in both Arabic and English."

Dollar hits 100 yen Japan cuts key interest rate to new all-time low of 0.5%

TOKYO (R) — Japan's central bank slashed its key lending rate by half Friday to a new all-time low of 0.5 per cent to bolster the country's flagging economy.

Within two hours of the cut in the official discount rate, the dollar reached the 100-yen level for the first time since January. The rise was helped by aggressive dollar-buying intervention by the Bank of Japan.

The Tokyo stock market's Nikkei average also soared, rising more than four per cent to 18,442.39 by mid-afternoon.

The Bank of Japan (BOJ) last cut the key lending rate to its previous record low of one per cent in April.

The central bank also said it was trimming the cut in the key lending rate with a move to guide short-term rates lower in the money market.

"The Bank of Japan expects that these decisions will lead to a further decline in interest rates across the board, thereby contributing to a steady recovery of the economy with price stability," it said in a statement.

In Washington, U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin quickly welcomed the BOJ move, and reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to cooperate closely in currency markets with Japan and other leading industrial nations.

"We welcome the actions taken by the Japanese authorities to ease monetary conditions," Mr. Rubin said in a statement. "These actions, which are consistent with the objectives of the April 25 G-7 (Group of Seven) communique, should do to help others around the world, particularly those in countries that are struggling to be like we are," she said.

U.S. foreign aid totals about \$10 billion, down from \$16 billion a decade ago.

U.S. President Bill Clinton has been insisting that current levels be maintained but congressional Republicans have been pushing for cuts of at least 20 per cent annually.

The White House, hoping to generate political support for current levels of funding, has been stressing that most aid has been directed at programmes intended to deal with immediate human sufferings.

Underscoring that theme, Hillary Clinton toured the four-year-old centre for street children, where more than 2,000 children receive care and refuge.

The centre will receive some of the \$1 million in aid for children's health programme in Mongolia which she announced on her arrival Thursday.

Japan's economic outlook is not at all optimistic," Mr. Hashimoto told a news conference after a cabinet meeting. Asked about lower interest rates, Mr. Hashimoto said: "Everything needs to be done to make the situation better."

The trade minister said he would soon meet with Isamu Miyazaki, director general of the Economic Planning Agency, to agree on the details of an economic stimulus package expected to be finalised by Sept. 20.

"Along with the size of the package, what is important is the content," he said.

Mr. Miyazaki told a separate news conference that Japan's latest industrial output data endorsed the need for a further stimulus package.

Several economists said the rate could well be the last, but some were reluctant to rule out further credit easing completely.

"Until it gets down to zero, it's hard to be emphatic but certainly when the rate is so low there is a much better prospect that it's the last cut," Mr. Calderwood said.

Meanwhile Japanese ministers and the country's central bank governor offered gloomy assessment of the economy, with International Trade and Industry Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto pessimistic about the outlook.

"What you're going to see is the positive impact from monetary policy over the next 18 months," said Russell Jones, chief economist at Lehman Brothers Japan. "I'm quite optimistic about the ability of the economy to recover."

But the credit easing will hardly solve all of Japan's economic problems, many of which are structural rather

Don't cut foreign aid, Hillary Clinton says

ULAN BATOR (R) — Hillary Clinton, touched by the sight of homeless Mongolian children in the capital of one of the world's most isolated nations, made a strong plea Friday for U.S. foreign aid to be maintained at current levels.

Touring a homeless children's shelter that receives U.S. aid, the American first lady said the benefits of the centre showed how important foreign aid could be.

Countering conservative Republicans in Congress who want deep cuts in foreign-aid spending, Mrs. Clinton told reporters.

"Many Americans do not know that we spend so little money helping other countries. She said foreign aid was just 'one per cent of our entire federal budget and it serves humanitarian purposes and fosters democracy.'"

"I think most Americans, if they knew this fact, would be very proud of our country because of what we are trying to do to help others around the world, particularly those in countries that are struggling to be like we are," she said.

U.S. foreign aid totals about \$10 billion, down from \$16 billion a decade ago.

U.S. President Bill Clinton has been insisting that current levels be maintained but congressional Republicans have been pushing for cuts of at least 20 per cent annually.

The White House, hoping to generate political support for current levels of funding, has been stressing that most aid has been directed at programmes intended to deal with immediate human sufferings.

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The centre will receive some of the \$1 million in aid for children's health programme in Mongolia which she announced on her arrival Thursday.

East-West German divide narrowing — study

BERLIN (AFP) — Five years after reunification, the huge social and economic gulf between citizens of former West Germany and their eastern counterparts is finally narrowing, two studies have said.

But the studies, conducted by the Institute of Economic Research in Halle (IWH), in eastern Germany, show that easterners still have a long way to go to reach true economic parity with westerners, especially when it comes to bankruptcies and household incomes.

During the first four months of 1995, 1,668 firms in eastern Germany went bankrupt, most of them unable to survive in a competitive market environment due to a lack of reputation, experience and know-how, the IWH said.

The figure is 50 per cent higher than that for 1994, and 30 per cent higher than the corresponding figure for western Germany, with the eastern building industry particularly badly hit.

At the same time, the purchasing power of the average easterner is still only 78 per cent of that of his western counterpart, while life expectancy in eastern Germany is two to three years lower than in the west.

But several indicators point to a narrowing in the divide.

As many as 30,000 new businesses are to start up in 1995 in eastern Germany, according to the studies, while the jobless figure across the region is set to fall by 115,000 more than in 1994.

Moreover, the differences in indicators such as personal debt, divorce and birthrates are dwindling, the IWH said.

"In front of the television, the washing machine or behind the steering wheel, German unity has virtually been accomplished," the weekly Der Spiegel commented on the studies.

Almost all eastern households now possess a colour television and a washing machine, while proportionally as many easterners own video cassette recorders and computers as in the west, the studies said.

THE Daily Crossword by CF Murray

ACROSS

- Valletta's land
- Chalcedony
- Race distance
- Historian Durant
- Clinton's "ditch"
- Words with sleep or sleep
- Big buttes
- Phil Silvers comedy
- Oiler's home
- French novelist
- Sub — (secretly)
- Helen or Isaac
- So-so
- Bit of advice
- Large gully
- Home of a New Year's event
- Latin abbr.
- Inspect
- Olive genus
- Get together
- "The — ol Reading Gaol"
- Artist's medium
- Wild duck
- Seaport in Spain
- Bread end
- Poker holdings
- Twin's home
- Edgy
- pneumonia
- Kind of sch.
- About that much
- Obliterate
- Art style
- Crystal-gazer
- French income

DOWN

- "I Remember —"
- Son of Zeus and Hera
- Catalogue
- Rip
- Loser
- istly
- Redolence
- Ready
- Cunning-out girl
- Cash
- Vacuous
- Actor's speech
- Coup d' —
- Wide open

Thursday's puzzle solved

ASHE HITCH ASTA
CLOY OMAHA IMAN
HOMEIMPROVEMENT
BELLES PEGLEGS
CEESTINGE
LOOT IRONS SHIP
ELM ATMO ASONE
ELI BESTOWS MAR
RINDS SNAP ELK
SEGO WAIST BBLs
CRANE EBRO
SHAKILY ARMADA
HOMEFROMTHEHILL
ILET UNITE MEMO
MESS SEDAN ASAP

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



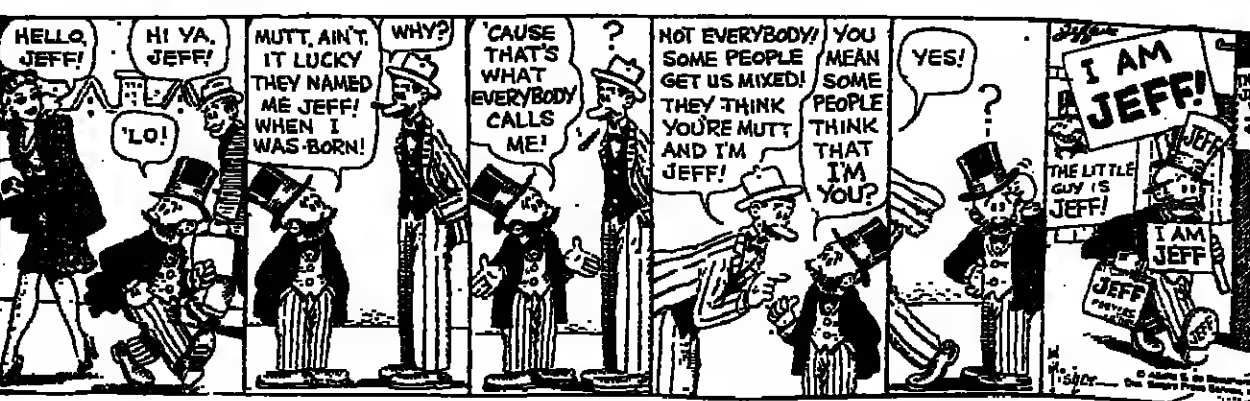
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can be very creative this morning, but later today you may have to rise above annoyances which may come up.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Get the situation at home better organised this morning, since a complex matter may come up there later today.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Get your shopping completed early today and other errands before you handle some personal attention.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can get details of bills and collections nicely handled early this morning, but later today some problem may arise which can be annoying.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is a good day to improve your appearance, but don't try to force any personal wishes on others.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) It is important that you handle personal matters this morning, and later today you can work on regular duties which you may not enjoy.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is a good morning to pursue whatever is of intimate importance to you, but later today you have to use tact in asking for favours.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Get busy at your regular duties which are not connected with the outside world and you can get much completed. Avoid one who likes to harass you.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Before you get into new interest or take a trip, be sure to comprehend every facet connected with it.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Tying up any loose ends of business or other practical affairs are wise today. Make the most of this strange day.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is a good day for keeping promises you try to make for showing appreciation for favours to a good friend.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Utilise some time to get your surroundings improved today so that you can be more comfortable in them.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

Business Daily Beat
A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Amman Governorate budget for 1996 estimated at JD 81.8m

THE ESTIMATED 1996 budget for Amman Governorate amounts to JD 81,857,000 which will be allocated to implement developmental projects either new or carried over from last year. Of the total, JD 67,243,000 will be from local financing and JD 14,614,000 from loans. New projects will receive JD 5,467,000 while projects carried over from this year will get JD 26,390,000.

The education sector was given JD 15.8 million, or 19.3 per cent of the overall amount, to build schools in Jabal Al Nasr, Al Hashemi Al Janoubi, Al Jubeiha, Monwaqqar and Iraq Al Amer.

The health sector received JD 7.5 million (9.1 per cent) and will benefit Al Bashir Hospital and setting up health centres in Monwaqqar, Irbid, Thubaybeh, Zameyeh and other locations.

The social development sector was given JD 208,000 to be spent on a centre for the retarded in Marj Al Hamam.

To build a sports complex in Sahab and four youth centres elsewhere, the sector of youth got JD 1.9 million. A single environmental project for a dump of dangerous waste was allocated JD 1.5 million.

The supply sector received JD 2.4 million, or 2.9 per cent of the total amount, mainly to build an annex to the fodder warehouse in Jiza and expand Juweideh mill.

To conduct maintenance and preservation for Amman's Citadel and Roman Amphitheater, the tourism and antiquities sector was allocated JD 104,000.

Civil defence projects in Naour, Muhajireen, Abu Nseir, Jabal Al Taj and Al Hussein Camp will receive JD 1.8 million.

Road projects at various locations took JD 12.7 million, or about 15.5 per cent of the total budget.

For expanding the telephone network in Tla' Al Ali, Abdoun, Al Rashid, Tareq, Abu Alanda, Sahab, Wadi Sagra and Suweileh, the communications sector was allocated JD 9.9 million, or 12 per cent of the budget.

The postal sector was budgeted JD 459,000 to open post offices in Monwaqqar, Manara, Marka and the urban housing estate.

The largest allocation went for the water sector with JD 12.6 per cent (27.6 per cent) to improve the water networks in Jabal Hussein, Al Zuhour and Al Nuzhah, build a reservoir in Al Qastal and a pumping station in Nazal.

Agriculture was budgeted JD 927,000 to develop highlands in different locations and for the annual afforestation project.

Finally, the electricity sector would benefit of JD 4.4 million (5.5 per cent) to electrify nine villages and other projects (Al Dustour).

PRICES OF crystallised and iodised salt recently fixed and announced by the Ministry of Supply do not cover the refined salt produced by Amra and Al Azraq plants. The new price affects only the Yara brand salt. Sources point out that this type of crystallised (white homogenised) salt has not been priced by the ministry and a kilogramme was selling for JD 0.350. In light of a study on production cost, the ministry fixed the price at JD 0.190 which includes a 25 per cent profit margin. Prices of salt from the Amra and Al Azraq plants remain at JD 0.130 per kilogramme and a preliminary study has shown that this price will not be increased (Al Dustour).

Lloyd's appears to have passed solvency test

LONDON (AP) — The Department of Trade and Industry has said that the troubled Lloyd's of London insurance market appeared to have passed its annual solvency test.

Lloyd's is required by law each year to submit what are known as solvency test figures to show it is in a fit state to carry on business. The solvency test is for Lloyd's overall liabilities and assets and for those of its investors, known as names.

Lloyd's submitted its solvency test figures to the department for the year ended Dec. 31, 1994.

The department said in a statement after summarily examining them: "The statutory requirements appear to have been met."

But it added: "The checking of all the details included in the completeness of certificates for over 33,000 names takes a little time."

Lloyd's maintained in a statement issued when it submitted the figures: "The returns demonstrate that Lloyd's has met its global solvency margin. For general insurance business underwritten by syndicates at Lloyd's, the returns demonstrate that the required minimum solvency margin has been covered 3.9 times."

The chairman of Lloyd's, David Rowland, said: "Lloyd's continues to make progress with the reconstruction and renewal plan which will enable us to put the problems of the past firmly behind us and to take advantage of the opportunities which the world insurance market continues to offer."

The London newspaper the Guardian commented: "The result will come as a relief to the market which has been defending itself against accusations that it was insolvent."

But critics noted that for the third straight year, Lloyd's was forced to include its London headquarters building and other assets in the solvency test figures to cover a shortfall of more than £1 billion (\$1.55 billion) caused by the failure of many of its investors to pay their insurance losses.

Lloyd's has lost more than £8 billion (\$12.4 billion) in five years.

Share trading, prices improve at AFM

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Trading edged up a little and stock prices gained about two per cent this week at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) as the bourse overcame fears of a break in trade links with Iraq and picked up on the endorsement of key laws that liberalise the economy, brokers said Friday. The weekly report of the AFM said turnover for the week was 4.2 million dinars, up 7.7 per cent from the previous week's 3.8 million dinars. The report said 2.4 million shares changed hands under 3,108 contracts during the week and the average daily trading was 840,000 dinars, compared with the previous week's 780,000 dinars.

The official AFM index based on 60 major companies from among the 120 listed in the market closed for the week at 156.4 points, up 1.4 points or 0.9 per cent. However, brokers said the gains were around two per cent, given the improvement

of shares of companies outside the index. Separate sectoral indices showed that services shares rose by 2.7 points, or 2.1 per cent, banks and financial institutions by 2.3 points, or 1.2 per cent, and industrials by 0.3 points or 0.2 per cent. Banks and financial institutions accounted for 40.8 per cent of the weekly volume with 1.73 million dinars, followed by industrials with 1.69 million dinars, or 39.9 per cent, and services sector with 760,000 dinars, or 17.9 per cent, and insurance firms with 60,000 dinars.

The week saw stocks of 90 companies being traded. As business closed for the week, 43 of them had gained, 31 slipped and 16 remained unchanged. Brokers said the market was cautious early in the week, looking for signs of the fall of a strain in political ties with Iraq on the economic front after Jordan granted asylum to two high-ranking Iraqi defectors and criticised the policies of the Iraqi regime. Fears that Baghdad might

retaliate by suspending trade links with Jordan failed to materialise as the flow of Iraqi oil continued to Jordan and Jordanian exports of food and medicine also was not interrupted.

Any development in ties with Iraq has an immediate impact on the local market since Iraq accounts for about \$420 million in Jordan's exports, representing 40 per cent of the Kingdom's exports excluding phosphates and potash. "The market seems to have understood that the flow of Iraqi oil to Jordan and the Kingdom's exports to Iraq are not going to be affected in the short-term," said a broker. "With that in mind speculators looked for local signs and picked up on the passage of the sales tax law and income tax law."

"On the while fears of losses as a result of a strain with Iraq were subdued by the positive signs on the local front," commented the broker. "Barring any new developments on the Iraqi front, Jordanian shares should be gaining from now until the end of the year," predicted the broker.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDAN				
TELEPHONE: 402171 / 607178				
ORGANISED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (02/09/1995 - 06/09/1995)				
WEEKLY REPORT				
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES				
JORDAN CEMENT	18,051	5.910	5.920	5.980
JORDAN CEMENT	750	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN CEMENT	5,060	2.500	2.500	2.540
JORDAN CEMENT	2,380	3.850	3.850	4.000
JORDAN CEMENT	3,400	2.000	2.000	1.000
JORDAN CEMENT	573	1.200	1.200	1.210
JORDAN CEMENT	2,037	2.950	2.950	2.950
JORDAN CEMENT	220,276	7.340	7.340	7.500
JORDAN CEMENT	31,423	5.500	5.500	5.450
JORDAN CEMENT	118,656	0.470	0.470	0.570
JORDAN CEMENT	7,824	1.380	1.380	1.380
JORDAN CEMENT	61,753	1.060	1.060	1.010
JORDAN CEMENT	11,438	2.000	2.000	1.950
JORDAN CEMENT	1,550	1.070	1.070	1.140
JORDAN CEMENT	16,530	4.200	4.200	4.360
JORDAN CEMENT	3,111	4.510	4.510	4.450
JORDAN CEMENT	1,108	1.600	1.600	1.530
JORDAN CEMENT	4,214	2.140	2.140	2.170
JORDAN CEMENT	7,834	1.500	1.500	1.450
JORDAN CEMENT	47,985	3.200	3.200	3.240
JORDAN CEMENT	71,268	2.000	2.000	2.030
JORDAN CEMENT	87,260	1.440	1.440	1.670
JORDAN CEMENT	87,281	1.340	1.340	1.380
JORDAN CEMENT	4,227	2.030	2.030	2.040
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR				
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	127,633	INDEX NUMBER: 126.41		
CHANGE		+0.187		
GRAND TOTAL				
GRAND TOTAL	365,625	INDEX NUMBER: 156.02		
CHANGE		+0.187		
PARALLEL MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (02/09/1995 - 06/09/1995)				
WEEKLY REPORT				
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE				
CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE	4,470	0.810	0.810	0.800
CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE	45,437	0.750	0.750	0.770
CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE	20,911	2.220	2.220	2.250
CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE	36,945	1.070	1.070	1.030
CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE	54,213	0.920	0.920	0.930
CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE	9,290	0.900	0.900	0.900
CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE	58,059	0.630	0.630	0.120
CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE	4,517	0.540	0.540	0.530
CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE	3,218	1.710	1.710	1.730
CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE	9,300	1.000	1.000	1.000
CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE	623	0.910	0.910	0.890
CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE	13,274	2.130	2.130	2.130
CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE	3,947	0.920	0.920	0.830
CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE	54,012	0.390	0.390	0.390
CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE	1,235	0.860	0.860	0.810
CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE	160,642	1.460	1.460	1.450
CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE	1,111	0.850	0.850	0.840
CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE	24,418	0.790	0.790	0.770
CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE	40,732	1.280	1.280	1.300
CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE	812	0.760	0.760	0.760
CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE	6,402	0.820	0.820	0.840
CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE	14,408	0.930	0.930	0.910
GRAND TOTAL				
GRAND TOTAL	578,712			

Financial Markets		
In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank		
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin		
Date: 7/9/1995		
Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.712	0.715
Swiss Franc	1.1041	1.1096
Deutsche Mark	0.4822	0.4846
Swiss Franc	0.5871	0.5900
French Franc	0.1401	0.1408
Japanese Yen	0.7216	0.7252
Deutsche Mark	0.4304	0.4326
Swedish Krona	---	---
Italian Lira	0.0440	0.0442
Belgian Franc	---	---
Other Currencies		
Date: 7/9/1995		
Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8750	1.8920
Lebanese Lira	0.84325	0.84425
Saudi Riyal	0.1897	0.1912
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2970	2.3750
Qatari Riyal	0.1945	0.1959
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2180
Omani Riyal	1.8850	1.8950
UAE Dirham	0.1935	0.1948
Greek Drachma	0.2785	0.2757
Cypriot Pound	1.4975	1.5885

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES		
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.		
One U.S. dollar	1.3432/42	Canadian dollar
	1.4868/78	Deutsche marks
	1.6658/68	Dutch guilders
	1.2230/40	Swiss francs
	30.56/60	Belgian francs
	5.1058/08	French francs
	1619.2/0.2	Italian lire
	99.98/08	Japanese yen
	7.2260/60	Swedish crowns
	6.4830/80	Norwegian crowns
	5.7523/73	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.5446/56	
One ounce of gold	\$382.90/383.40	

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Sports

FIFA committee defers UEFA challenge

ZURICH (AP) — Soccer's governing body FIFA put off a crucial decision Friday on radical reforms proposed by the powerful European Confederation.

FIFA's emergency committee met in rare session to discuss UEFA proposals to rotate the World Cup finals on a geographical basis, give more power to the regional confederations and cut FIFA's role.

The so-called "vision" documents, drawn up by UEFA president Lennart Johansson of Sweden, are the latest episode in a long-running power-struggle with FIFA's Joao Havelange, who has been president for 21 years.

After 90-minute talks, Havelange said the 7-man emergency body had agreed to postpone a decision until a full meeting of the executive committee Dec. 11, on the eve of the preliminary World Cup draw in Paris.

At a news conference, the 67-year-old Brazilian lawyer, who has transformed FIFA from rags to riches but is also accused of being dictatorial — went out of his way to assert his authority.

"We don't need a conference coming to us to tell us how to manage our affairs," he said, clearly referring to UEFA.

"When I arrived at FIFA in 1974 there weren't even \$20 here to pay delegates' travel costs," said Havelange, who unseated Britain's Sir Stanley Rous to become the first non-European President.

Johansson said he was satisfied with the outcome of the meeting but was reluctant to answer further questions. He did not attend the news conference with Havelange.

The African confederation has allied itself to UEFA, which also hopes for support from the Asian continent. However, South America has thrown its weight behind Havelange.

Havelange said there was no discussion of UEFA proposals to boost World Cup income from sponsorship and television rights and to redistribute the profits.

He pointedly made it clear that the Europeans had not bothered to send FIFA a copy of the so-called "vision II" document and that FIFA would not make the first move.

"When it is sent to us we will study it and give our answer. The door is open for document deliveries and the fax works 24 hours per day," he said.

UEFA has argued that World Cup revenue is a pittance compared with other sporting events, and says television rights and marketing should fetch some \$800 million.

Television rights at the 1994 World Cup brought in just under \$96 million.

The only document on the table Friday was the "Vision I" reorganizational plan — previously denounced by Havelange as denoting FIFA to a "simple coordinating body."

It proposes giving more powers to the regional confederations — like UEFA — in rule enforcement and international competitions, and changing the composition of FIFA's powerful 21-man executive committee.

Another focal UEFA proposal would be to rotate the World Cup finals evenly on a geographical basis every four years.

This would avoid the multi-million-dollar politicking that has typified the bid between Japan and South Korea to host the 2002 finals.

Under UEFA's proposals, Europe would be entitled to host the lucrative event in 2006 — thus squeezing it before South American nations which have their sights set on that date. France stages the finals in 1998.

Havelange made it clear he mistrusted the European idea.

"Either you have a true rotation, or you have favoritism — or you open up the field to candidates and make the choice," he said.

In the long-run, European countries could be potentially disadvantaged, given that until now they have more or less shared the finals hosting with South America.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Iraqis beat Wihdat in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Baghdad celebrated its first competitive international football match since the 1990 invasion of Kuwait with victory over a Jordanian team in the Asian champions' cup on Thursday night. Al-Zawra of Iraq beat Jordanian champions Al Wihdat 2-1 in a second leg tie, going through 5-2 on aggregate to face Al-Arabi of Qatar in October. The international football federation FIFA banned Baghdad from hosting international matches after Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait in August 1990. Iraq was allowed to compete in the qualifiers for the 1994 World Cup but had to play all its matches away from home, narrowly failing to reach the finals in the United States. The ban was relaxed in June 1993 to allow friendly matches to take place, only in Baghdad. Last May, FIFA's executive committee ruled that Jordan and Qatar could play in Iraq in the qualifying stages of the Atlanta Olympic Games.

Wang Junxia claws her way back

BEIJING (AFP) — Wang Junxia, one-time star of Ma Junren's army of runners, was given a standing ovation as she made a stunning return to form in a 10,000 metres race at Changchun. The world record holder finished in 31min 23.24sec, 19 seconds outside the time that Portugal's Fernanda Ribeiro won the world title in Gothenburg with last month. It was still almost two minutes outside her world record of 29:31.78, but was still the best performance this year by Wang, the only woman to have run the distance in under 30 minutes. Wang failed to get into China's world championship team after a torrid six months that saw her form slump after a much publicised split with Ma Junren over his treatment of the runners. Without Wang, Qu Yunxia and Liu Dong — who dominated the world championships in Stuttgart in 1993 — China managed only a silver medal in Gothenburg through Huang Zhihong in the shot.

30 injured in Turkish celebrations

ANKARA (AP) — Thirty people were injured in traffic accidents or by stray bullets during all-night celebrations after Turkey's European Championship qualifier victory over Hungary. Turkey defeated Hungary 2-0 in Istanbul Wednesday night for the first time in 39 years to virtually secure a place in the championship finals in England next year. Turkish soccer fans went wild after the game, streaming onto the streets in cars and trucks waving Turkish flags, singing and bringing traffic to a standstill all over the country. However, things turned sour when people fired guns into the air. An 11-month-old baby received a head injury from a stray bullet while playing on the balcony of an Istanbul apartment, the Anatolia news agency said.

Senna foundation aids 33,000 children

MILAN (AP) — Ayrton Senna's mother on Thursday announced that proceeds from the foundation named after the Brazilian F-1 driver will go to fight child malnutrition. Senna, a three-time world champion, was killed in a high-speed crash during the San Marino Grand Prix at Imola last year. Neyde Senna told a news conference in Milan that royalties yielded by the Ayrton Senna trademark will be used by the foundation to fight malnutrition of 33,000 children a day in the metropolitan region of Sao Paulo, and in the states of Parana, An educational and social programme including computer training, recreation and cultural activities, will be launched for 3,100 children.

Grand Prix gets \$1m bonus

MONTE CARLO (AFP) — Athletics chiefs announced a one-million dollar bonus for next year's Grand Prix final.

International Amateur Athletic Federation president Primo Nebiolo said on the eve of this year's final that the 1996 event would boast total prize money of \$3.24 million, compared to this year's \$2.24 million.

The men's and women's overall Grand Prix title winners will see their cash hand-out doubled to \$200,000 next season, while individual win bonuses in the final event of the season will go up from \$30,000 to \$50,000.

Nebiolo also announced that a world record in the Grand Prix final next year would be worth \$100,000. That means an athlete could earn \$350,000 in all for under ten seconds work.

"I just wish I was a bit younger and stronger," Nebiolo said.

Nebiolo would not say where the money was coming from, but it is likely to be funded by a new and yet-to-be-announced sponsorship deal.

American oil corporation Mobil will end its backing of the Grand Prix this season. Vice President Jim Mann said the company, which ploughed two million dollars into the circuit this season, would have liked to have continued.

"The IAAF was asking for two-and-a-half times what we paid before — we can't pay those fees," he explained. Athletes, however, will find their workload increased next season to win the overall Grand Prix title.

This year, each athlete's five best performances on the circuit — along with bonuses for world records — earned them points towards the title. Eight events will be counted next year, meaning that competitors will have to compete more to stay in contention.

That, in turn, will put long-distance runners in particular in a major dilemma of whether to chase Grand Prix cash or cut back appearances to concentrate on "major" titles.

FIFA sets selection date for 2002 finals

ZURICH (AP) — World soccer's governing body said Friday it will decide next June 1 whether to award the 2002 World Cup finals to Japan or South Korea.

FIFA officials had previously indicated the date might be brought forward to cut short the bitter campaigning between the two Asian rivals.

FIFA President Joao Havelange has always made it clear that he wanted the 2002 finals to be held in Asia for the first time to reflect the growing popularity of the sport and potentially huge television audiences.

The successful experiment with holding last year's finals in the United States — which had previously shown little enthusiasm for soccer — proved Havelange's point.

Mexico, which originally said it would be candidate for 2002, dropped out of the running last year when it became clear it stood no chance.

However, the bitterness of the contest has alarmed many soccer officials. South Korea has invoked images of Japan's record in

World war II and said Japan has no right to host the competition as it has never qualified for the soccer finals.

A South Korean official, Moon-Joon Chung, has been accused of using his position as a FIFA vice-president and Asian representative to try to swing voting.

At the same time, FIFA critics have pointed to the body's marketing links with Japanese companies as favouring Japan.

Proposals for Japan and South Korea to host the event jointly are considered unrealistic.

The 2002 finals are set to be the most lucrative in the history of soccer. A German-American duo of marketing companies recently offered \$1 billion for the world rights of the tournament.

By contrast the 1994 finals netted just under \$100 million in television revenues. FIFA's existing television marketing contract comes up for renewal in 1998.

The 1998 finals will be held in France.

Kanchelksis has his moment for revenge

LONDON (AP) — Andrei Kanchelksis has the chance to show how wrong his former manager Alex Ferguson was to ignore him when the Russian international turns out for Everton against Manchester United in Saturday's round of the English Premier League.

Kanchelksis left United in a bitter split with Ferguson, whom he claimed refused to talk to him. The winger said he could not stay at Old Trafford while Ferguson was still in charge.

At Goodison Park on Saturday, the replay of May's FA Cup final gives Kanchelksis the perfect stage to show the dazzling pace and ball skills which made him United's top goal scorer last season.

Everton won the FA Cup with a 1-0 victory, but Kanchelksis has added some spark to the club's growing image as little more than a tough defensive unit.

United's successor as Premier League champion,

Blackburn, faces another tough obstacle to reviving the dismal start to its title defence, when it hosts in-form Aston Villa.

With only one win from its opening four matches, new manager Ray Hurford has already hinted he may need new personnel and this week could be the last chance before club owner Jack Walker brings back his hefty check book.

After opening the season with a win over Queens Park Rangers, Rovers lost three matches in six days, including a 2-1 loss to newly promoted Bolton.

Walker's reluctance to spend again over the off season while clubs like Newcastle and Leeds lashed out has given Rovers' title assailants a head start.

Rovers' heir apparent, Newcastle, reveling in the devastating combination of new buys Les Ferdinand and David Ginola up front, is unbeaten and should maintain that record after travelling to second-to-last Southampton.

Coulthard gets provisional pole

MONZA, Italy (AP) — David Coulthard edged local Ferrari hero Gerhard Berger by 38 hundredths of a second on Friday, capturing the provisional pole for the Italian Grand Prix.

Coulthard, a Briton still winless in Formula One, completed his fastest lap at the redesigned 5.77-kilometre (3.59-mile) Monza track in one minute, 25.516 seconds for a 242.901 kph (150.964 mph) average speed.

Berger clocked his best lap as he took the checkered flag to end the one-hour session in 1:25.904.

Damon Hill, Coulthard's British teammate, was third ahead of German Michael Schumacher.

Hill, who will be shooting for his third consecutive victory in the Italian GP, was 0.39 of a second behind Coulthard and 0.19 ahead of Schumacher seconds.

Athletics stars gather in Monte Carlo

MONACO (R) — Monte Carlo, the ostentatiously affluent principality nestling between France and Italy, provides an appropriate backdrop for Moses Kiptanui as he chases further dollars at Saturday's Grand Prix athletics final.

Unless one of his main rivals sets a world record, the greatest steeplechaser in history need finish only third in his specialist event to win the men's overall title and earn \$130,000 for his afternoon's work.

A world 5,000 metres record this season plus the first sub-eight minute 3,000 steeplechase have given the Kenyan a 12-point lead over his nearest challengers and in all probability ensured another big payday.

In the women's overall Grand Prix, Mozambique's Maria Mutola has a six-point lead over her closest rivals, thanks to her world 1,000 metres record in Brussels last month. A win on Saturday would go some way to compensating for her disqualification in the semifinals of the Gothenburg world championships 800 metres.

Kenyan Kiptanui, who is based in Britain during the Northern season, sparked a brief controversy in Gothenburg when he admitted easing up in the steeplechase final with the world record seemingly at his mercy.

Instead, Kiptanui said, he was saving himself for the Zurich Grand Prix five days later and a \$100,000 cash bonus if he broke the record. Scoring the services of a pacemaker, Kiptanui duly reduced his own world mark to seven minutes 59.18 seconds in Zurich and then said the record had been more important than a Third World title.

"To be the first man under eight minutes is more important for me than winning a gold medal at the World Championships," Kiptanui said.

"I have one more job to do next year, because I haven't got an Olympic gold medal yet."

The Grand Prix final, culmination of an exhausting season, features most of the year's other outstanding performers including Michael Johnson, Noureddine Morceli, Haile Gebrselassie and Sonia O'Sullivan.

Johnson, the first man to complete the world 200 and 400 metres double, runs over 200 metres while world champion Morceli competes in the 1,500 metres. The little Algerian, who has enjoyed another wonderful season, set the world 1,500 metre record in nearby Nice this year.

Ethiopian Gebrselassie, who took almost 11 seconds off Kiptanui's world 5,000 mark in Zurich, takes part in the 3,000 metres while O'Sullivan, the first Irishwoman to win a world title, also runs over 3,000.

Americans Kim Batten and Tonja Buford, who both ran inside the world record at Gothenburg, renew their rivalry in the women's 400 metres hurdles and Ukrainian Sergei Bubka will no doubt attempt yet another world pole vault record in his adopted home town.

Jamaican Merlene Ottey, another athlete who has opted to live in Monaco, is injured and will not take on Gwen Torrence in the women's 200 metres.

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Jordan invites Belgian businessmen to invest

'Kingdom ideal for investments after peace, restructured economy and changed laws'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan has done the groundwork to make its investment climate attractive to capital and now looks forward to foreign firms investing in projects in the Kingdom, which in reality represents a gateway to Middle East. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan has told Belgian and European businessmen.

"We invite the private sector in Belgium and Europe to invest in projects in Jordan and the region," the Crown Prince said in a speech delivered on his behalf by Sharif Jamil Ben Nasser in Brussels, Belgium.

The address was made at a forum organised by the Belgian-Arab Chambers of Commerce and the Belgian Businessmen Association ahead of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit to be held in Amman next month.

"Jordan has a well-developed infrastructure, banking and financial system, legal environment and educated and trainable manpower," the Crown Prince said in the speech, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times. "In addition, revisions and amendments to laws and regulations are

underway and we feel that Jordan will present itself as a leading country in investment opportunities with the proper climate and incentives for investments."

The Crown Prince noted that the main goal of the Casablanca summit held last year was to look regional structures and policies while the Amman summit "will be specific, more focused on private sector participation" in projects.

"It will be geared to investment" and will "concentrate on a selected group of industries, allow for product matching and establish a data for future business activities."

He also noted that workshops would be held on specific sectors to be agreed upon at the summit.

The Crown Prince thanked the organisers for granting Jordan the status of "guest country" at the Flanders International Fair and said the Kingdom's participation was significant in that it followed the signing of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty.

"Jordan's leadership has steered Jordan safely in the midst of the politics of the extremes that characterised the region," he said. "Pragmatism and moderation have been hallmarks of Jordan's

approach in regional and international politics. This approach helped make Jordan one of the very few stable countries in the Middle East over decades of regional conflicts."

Jordan has also succeeded in "nurturing and protecting one of the few democracies in the region," said the Crown Prince. "We became the first Arab country to institutionalise its respect for the right of all its citizens regardless of race, religion or creed to participate on equal basis in political decision-making and in shaping the future of the country."

Following are major excerpts from the speech: "With a population of just over four million, and striving to make up in quality what we lacked in quantity, a large part of public investments went to the development of human resources. As a result, Jordan is currently endowed with a relatively highly trained and skilled manpower that helped build not only Jordan but many countries in our region. Our political stability and resilience had, in turn, a noticeable positive impact on our economic development."

"Parallel progress was made in industrial infrastructure such as road networks."

(Continued on page 7)

France probes new blast amid tightened security

LYON, France (AFP) — France tightened security at schools and public buildings nationwide Friday as police probed the wreckage of a car bomb in Lyon in search of a lead in a six-week-old bomb campaign which has left seven dead and more than 100 injured.

The focus of the investigation switched to Lyon after the car bomb, blast Thursday outside a Jewish school in Villeurbanne, an industrial town near Lyon. Thirteen people were injured in the explosion, one seriously, according to a final toll given by police.

The bomb made from a gas canister, went off just minutes before the school's 700 pupils were due to go home after finishing lessons. Police said that it had gone off 10 minutes later, there would have been "casualties."

Education Minister Francois Bayron said Friday that the government had ordered security to be tightened up at schools throughout the country. He told police to see that there was "no parking" outside schools and to make sure that pupils did "not congregate" outside the gates.

In Lyon, the school targeted in Thursday's attack remained closed Friday and police said lessons had been suspended indefinitely.

Police said a wide area round the site of the explosion had been "totally sealed off" to avoid possibly vital evidence being lost. Detectives, including Paris specialists investigating five other bomb incidents, have amassed every scrap of debris from the wrecked vehicle and the gas canister which was packed with oils and bolts.

Authoritative sources said the security perimeter had enabled police to preserve important material evidence which was expected to help them with their enquiries.

Police refused to disclose any information about the investigation or about the vehicle which exploded at 4:45 p.m. — about 20 metres from the school entrance.

The car was completely blown apart in the blast and what was left was removed about midday Friday.

The wreckage of another car which was set on fire and gutted in the blast, was being towed by firemen. Other firemen were scouring the face of a nearby café in search of other debris.

At Friday noon, people living near the scene of the explosion had not yet been allowed to return to their homes.

Meanwhile, police were patrolling the Lyon subway carrying out identity controls and at a shopping centre near Villeurbanne, police were searching all bags as a precaution.

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Kabul: Taliban assault thwarted

KABUL (Agencies) — The beleaguered Afghan government fought off a Taliban offensive on Kabul's western frontlines, while a key rival faction Friday warned that any military plane bringing supplies from Tajikistan would be shot down.

The Defence Ministry said troops loyal to President Burhanuddin Rabbani repulsed a night-time infantry offensive by the Taliban against the western frontlines guarding Kabul.

"The Taliban launched three unsuccessful assaults at us last night," the official said.

The attacks, which came from the direction of the Taliban-controlled provincial capital of Maidan Shahr, 30 kilometres west of Kabul, went on for four hours, finishing at 3:00 a.m. local time (2230 GMT).

The Defence Ministry official said the Taliban suffered "heavy casualties" in its failed attack and that bodies of their dead fighters were still lying in the area.

In Pakistan, Sighatullah Zaki, spokesman for Uzbek militia chief Abdul Rashid Dostum, warned that if air-lifts of military supplies from Tajikistan were not halted by Saturday, then aircraft would be shot down.

Mr. Zaki claimed three military transport planes from Russia and Tajikistan flew Dostum-controlled northern Afghanistan towards Kabul on Friday.

They were believed to be carrying military supplies for the Rabbani government, he said, adding that in the past also similar flights had been going to Kabul with arms and ammunition.

He said a warning was issued previously by the multi-party Supreme Coordination Council of Islamic Afghanistan (SCCIRA).

"We would like to issue the last warning now that after 24 hours, any aircraft from outside flying over the area controlled by the Council, without prior permission and clearance, will be shot down," Mr. Zaki said.

The SCCIRA includes General Dostum's National Movement and former Premier Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami, besides some smaller factions.

Mr. Hekmatyar on Friday proposed an alliance between his faction and the Taliban to oust President Rabbani from power in Kabul.

"Together we can take over Kabul within two days," the Hezb-e-Islami leader said, while addressing Afghan refugees at Shamshatu camp in Pakistan.

"We are ready to cooperate with Taliban," Mr. Hekmatyar said, urging the student-led movement to link up with his party "sincerely and honestly."



SOUTH PACIFIC ANGER: A Tahitian girl walks through the debris of a burnt shop in Papeete after a rampage by pro-independence and anti-nuclear demonstrators (see page one) (AFP photo)

NGO forum ends with mixed results, strong participation by Arab women

By Caroline Faraj
Special to the Jordan Times

HUAIROU — After 10 days of deliberations and discussion, representatives of international and Arab non-governmental organisations (NGOs) meeting here to prepare and agree on an international agenda for women in the 21st century failed to find solution to major differences between them as individuals, NGOs, countries or religious beliefs.

Despite their agreement on the themes of the meeting — "Development, Equality and Peace" — the 26,549 participants failed to hurry their differences and come up with a unified agenda for women for the year 2000 and beyond, according to a statement issued at the conclusion of the NGO forum.

The statement described the forum as a historical breakthrough for women in the world, saying that it provided a unique opportunity for women from various parts of the world to meet and exchange views with world leaders on the status and role

of women. Representatives from all Arab countries, except Saudi Arabia, took part in the forum, which discussed subjects ranging from politics to economy and human rights. However, Arab delegations were no different from others, and apparently they had to carry their political differences back home.

Despite such differences, the Arab coordinator of the forum, Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, described the meeting as successful, saying that it took place in an atmosphere of freedom, openness and clarity.

Dr. Abu Ghazaleh said Arab women participating in the forum issued a statement expressing their position on the various issues and their adherence to its objectives.

Arab women stressed the important role women can play in ensuring respect for international human rights declarations and conventions and called on Arab countries to ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

and the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The statement drew attention to the new challenges posed by economic, political and social changes and their negative consequences on women in terms of increased unemployment and poverty and a remarkable increase in the number of women refugees and immigrants and women-headed families.

The statement said the successive economic crises, and the adoption of economic adjustment programmes have led to increased foreign debts, economic recession and increasing unemployment. These factors have serious implications on human rights, including women's rights.

The statement also drew attention to the education gap between men and women and between women in the rural and urban areas, and called for bridging such gaps to enable women to play their full role. They also called on Arab governments to amend legislation with a view to making it consistent with international declarations and conventions.

Arab women participating in the conference also called for addressing women's illiteracy and to make education accessible to men and women alike without discrimination.

They also called for involving women in policy formulation and decision making and in drawing up national plans.

The statement called for gender-sensitive media programmes, taking into consideration the multiple role of women as mothers, working women, wives and a full participant in public life.

The statement also called for sparing women and children from the consequences of economic sanctions.

The statement also stressed the need for observing the 1985 Nairobi Declaration on Women, which stressed, among other things, the right of refugees and displaced women to go back home and to release all women detained for political reasons. It also called for an end to the Israeli occupation of Arab territories.

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. to cut \$1.1b from Israel's loan guarantees

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The United States will cut \$1.1 billion from loan guarantees to Israel as a penalty for the Jewish state's investments in West Bank and Gaza Strip settlements, the finance ministry said Thursday. The guarantees, which enable Israel to raise loans on U.S. financial markets at low rates of interest, will be reduced by about \$500 million over the next three years, treasury official Shai Talmon said. Washington reduced the guarantees by \$217 million for 1995 and by \$437 million in 1994. The figures are estimates of Israel's spending in the settlements on occupied territory despite the government's 1992 pledge of a freeze. The penalties mean Israel will be able to raise \$8.9 billion between 1994 and 1998 instead of the planned \$10 billion. The guarantees were agreed by President George Bush in 1992 to help Israel settle immigrants from the ex-Soviet Union. Some 600,000 people have arrived since the Kremlin opened the gates in 1989.

U.S. reports new arms sales in Mideast

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Defence officials informed Congress Thursday of new contracts in the Middle East worth some \$1.35 billion. The Pentagon said the contracts include an \$850 million maintenance and training agreement with the Royal Saudi Air Force and a \$500 million deal for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to support Saudi defence logistics. Additionally, documents said Egypt would buy 540 TOW guided missile launchers for \$43 million, and Jordan would purchase four UH-60L Black Hawk utility helicopters for \$67 million.

Israeli colonel issued 'illegal work permits'

TEL AVIV (AP) — The army said Thursday it was investigating a colonel suspected of illegally giving Palestinians from the Gaza Strip permits to work in Israel. Police were also called in to investigate Col. Ami Nagar, head of the liaison unit with the Palestinians at the main Erez crossing into Israel from Gaza. Police spokesman Eric Bar-Chen said the colonel was suspected of taking bribes in return for the strictly limited permits. Israel has restricted the number of work permits given to Gazans following a wave of attacks by militants. Permits are only given following a security check to prevent attackers from slipping through. Gaza, where 60 per cent of the 850,000 residents are unemployed, relies heavily on Israel as a source of employment.

Court urged to deny Kurdish MPs' appeal

ANKARA (R) — Turkish prosecutors have urged the constitutional court to turn down an appeal from disenfranchised Kurdish members of parliament (MPs) to be allowed to return to parliament. Anatolian news agency said. The case of the Democracy Party (DEP) deputies, six of whom were jailed last year, has clouded Turkey's prospects for a customs union with the European Union. Anatolian said the chief prosecutor's office had asked the court to reject an appeal from the MPs' lawyers who argue that under recent constitutional changes the party's 13 MPs should not have lost their seats when the party was outlawed in 1994. The prosecutor's request could influence the court's ruling on the case set for Sept. 12, parliamentary sources said.

Lebanon to turn back Palestinians from Libya

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanon is to turn back ships carrying Palestinians forced to leave Libya, officials said Friday.

Prime Minister Rafik Hariri issued the order following the return of several hundred Palestinians aboard two boats earlier in the week and the expected arrival of another ship in Beirut port on Friday from Benghazi.

The official justified the order by saying not all the Palestinians had Lebanese travel documents.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has stepped up his campaign to expel the Palestinian expatriate workforce from his country, saying they should go to the West Bank and Gaza.

On Sept. 1, he called on other Arab states to do likewise to prove that the self-rule deal between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel was a failure.

Palestinians have been forced to pack their bags after Libya refused to renew their work permits.

The Beirut daily Al Nahar has reported that Tripoli informed Beirut it planned to expel the 30,000 Palestinians living in Libya — half of whom Lebanese travel documents and are likely to return to Lebanon.

Foreign Minister Fares Bouez said he had no such information.

Beirut newspapers said a number of Palestinians expelled by Libya had already arrived in the past few days, arousing concern in Lebanon which already has some 400,000 Palestinians, many of them in refugee camps.

The officials justified Mr. Mubarak's order by saying not all the Palestinians had Lebanese travel documents.

But Sultan Abul Aynan, the leader in Lebanon of the PLO's main faction Fateh, dismissed this as a pretext and injustice.

"Lebanon cannot turn back, under any pretext, Palestinians who hold Lebanese travel documents. This is their host country and

they, like thousands of others, had left it to work in other Arab countries," he said.

He urged the Lebanese government "not to inflict more injustice on the Palestinian people who have been expelled from Libya by refusing them their natural right to return to Lebanon."

He also denounced Libya's decision not to renew the work permits of Palestinians.

The PLO envoy in Tripoli said on Wednesday that Libya was not expelling Palestinians, but sources in Tripoli said some had been ordered to leave cities in central Libya and had moved to Tripoli and Benghazi.

"I can say that no Palestinian was expelled," the PLO's ambassador in Tripoli, Ali Mohammad Mustapha, told Reuters on the telephone.

"No one Palestinian has been affected so far, and the truth is that the Libyan people are bailing the Palestinians as always," Mr. Mustapha added.

Nayef Hawatmeh, leader of the Democratic Front for Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), a PLO faction, blasted Col. Qadhafi's call to Arab states.

"We don't agree with this appeal and we consider it as not suitable... because (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin rejects the right to return (to Palestinian lands) for Palestinian refugees and deportees," Mr. Hawatmeh told a press conference in Tunis on Wednesday night.

Unnamed Palestinian officials in Gaza said on Sunday that 430 Palestinians were expelled through the Egyptian border at the end of August.

But Mr. Mustapha said an undetermined number of Palestinians who left Libya recently did so voluntarily.

As a way to put more pressure on the PLO, Col. Qadhafi had threatened last year to deport 30,000 Palestinians but so far no mass expulsions have been reported.

COLUMN

U.S. senator quits over sexual harassment

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Senator Boh Packwood, a long-time champion of women's rights, resigned from the Senate rather than risk expulsion on charges of sexual harassment and misconduct. "I am aware of the dishonour that has befallen me," the powerful 62-year-old Republican chairman of the Senate Finance Committee told the Senate during an emotional speech. "It is my duty to resign. It is the honourable thing to do for this country." His announcement followed a 6-0 vote by the Senate Ethics Committee Wednesday recommending his expulsion over sexual advances on at least 17 women over a 20-year period and for soliciting jobs for his ex-wife lobbyists. "There was a habitual pattern of aggressive, blatantly sexual advances, mostly directed at members of his own staff or others whose livelihoods were connected in some way his power and authority as a senator," Ethics Committee Chairman Mitch McConnell told a news conference before Sen. Packwood announced his resignation. Vice Chairman Richard Bryan said the committee's recommendation "should send a message to every woman in America that the United States Senate recognises that this kind of conduct is intolerable and will exercise the ultimate sanction." He dismissed Sen. Packwood's claim that he only snatched kisses and that he was the victim of changed mores. Sen. Packwood's conduct "would have been unacceptable at the time Christopher Columbus discovered America," said Sen. Bryan.

Bonn probes new death from diet pill

BONN (AFP) — German investigators have launched a probe into another death — the seventh so far — attributed to a diet pill. The inquiry will be carried in the southwestern town of Tübingen into the activities of a doctor in Rotteburg who prescribed the pills, according to local prosecutors, who added that the charges could include homicide and doing involuntary harm through negligence. Concern over the pills was raised when a widower told police that his wife had begun taking them when she was 34 and later died in 1992 of cardiac arrest. The pill is now suspected of having caused the deaths of at least seven people. Authorities in Cologne on Aug. 25 announced that they had detained Dr. Riehnard Jansen and three pharmacists suspected of having produced so-called miracle weight-reducing pills. The unsupervised work was alleged to have been conducted since 1993 in a laboratory near Cologne, Herfried Biopharm. Specialists believe the pills were made according to a formula developed by a Belgian doctor. Yvan Coesens, who is currently being sought by police, Berlin prosecutors announced Tuesday they were also opening judicial inquiries targeting five doctors and nine pharmacists.

Bolshoi may be closed because of fire danger

MOSCOW (AP) — Firefighters have threatened to shut down the Bolshoi Theatre unless its administration takes urgent steps to ensure fire safety, officials said Thursday. Vladimir Kokonin, the Bolshoi's executive director, told the ITAR-TASS news agency that the theatre received a warning from the firemen earlier this week, but could not take the required safety precautions without a major overhaul. The imposing building with eight heavy columns was constructed 141 years ago, after the previous theatre house, burned to ashes in 1853. It has grown increasingly decrepit in recent years since the government has been slow to provide funds for building an interim facility that would house the company during the long-needed restoration. Mr. Kokonin said construction of the new building would finally begin at the end of the month. It is expected to take two years.

Jordanians
AMMAN 11
peacekeeping force
Sunday Royal
move to Mark
headquarters
Jordanian